

A COMPUERVE PUBLICATION PRINTED MONTHLY/ONLINE DAILY

ONLINE

T O D A Y

THE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE

April, 1986 \$2.50

VACATIONS

*Online Planning
Makes Them
Perfect*

**Hallmark's
Color Mail**

*Greeting Cards
Come to Life*

**Youthful
Pursuits**

*Services for
Young Users*



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GO EBB or circle 2 on the Reader Service Form.



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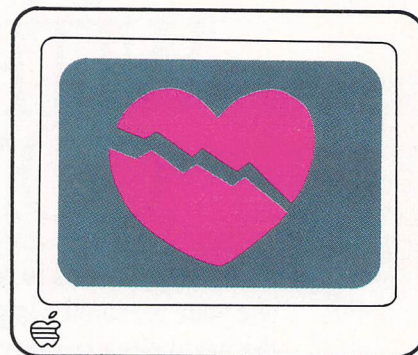
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DEAR READER

Online Today™, April 1986
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BPA Membership
(Selected Market Audit Division)
Applied for October 1984

Part of the pleasure of a vacation is derived from planning the trip. Unfortunately, many people are daunted by the prospect of dealing with airlines, hotels, car rental agencies and other services. As a result, many travelers do not tailor vacation plans for themselves but abdicate the responsibility to a travel agent. While travel agents provide excellent services, they serve hundreds of other clients and cannot possibly devote the amount of personal attention to important details that can make the difference between a dream vacation and a less-than-perfect journey.

With the advent of online travel services, trip planning can be pleasant, easy and economical. In as little as 20 minutes you can make simple airline, hotel and car rental arrangements from a computer in your home or office. An online travel planner can compare schedules, fares and fees, and customize a travel plan to fit his or her time and budget.

Explore online travel planning in this month's cover feature article beginning on page 12. On page 15 you will find a complete guide to travel services and discussion forums on the CompuServe Information Service. *Bon voyage!*

* * *

Once you arrive at your vacation destination, you might want to consider sending an electronic "wish you were here" post card back home. Now you can send electronic greetings — complete with color graphics, sound and motion — to your online friends. Hallmark's Color Mail service is now available for the Commodore 64 and Apple II series computers. Turn to page 22 to find out more about this exciting new service and how to get the Color Mail diskette that contains more than 100 graphic and sound elements for composing your own greeting cards.

Douglas G. Branstetter
Editor

C O N T E N T S

E L E C T R O N I C E D I T I O N

Online Today Electronic Edition provides daily-updated computer and information industry news, coverage of CompuServe services, commentary, computer product reviews and more. To access the *Electronic Edition*, enter GO OLT at any CompuServe prompt. Once inside OLT, simply enter GO and the page number (e.g., GO 90) to navigate the database. Following is a list of key pages in OLT to help you directly access the information you want without using menus:

DAILY HEADLINES

GO OLT A GO-page directory of the day's top computer industry news and a summary of key OLT page numbers.

DAILY NEWS

- OLT-160** **The Monitor Daily News** main menu. Lists all Monitor news departments.
- OLT-90** **Today's computer and information industry news.** Updated at least three times daily, seven days a week, including holidays.
- OLT-20** **The current week's Monitor news,** displayed on a five-day plus weekend menu.
- OLT-130** **Behind the ScreensSM.** A column of computer and information industry news, rumor and gossip. Updated daily.

COMPUERVE UPDATE

- OLT-50** **CompuServe Update** main menu. Lists all CompuServe news departments.
- OLT-70** **What's New on CompuServe.** A list of the current week's new products and services on CompuServe. For a month backlog of What's New columns, enter GO NEW and choose "Previous Weeks" from the menu.
- OLT-80** **CompuServe Community News.** CompuServe's daily updated "local news" of people and events on the Information Service.
- OLT-120** **Forum Conference Schedules.** A complete listing of all forum (special interest group) live

conference activity. The list includes dates and times of special event conferences as well as regularly scheduled live conferences.

COMMENTARY

- OLT-130** **Behind the ScreensSM.** A column of computer and information industry news, rumor and gossip. Updated daily.
- OLT-140** **Beginner's Corner** column for new CompuServe Users. The columns contain instructions and helpful hints on how to get the most for your connect time dollar.
- OLT-3500** **Online With Charles Bowen.** A column of insights into online computing, written by the co-author of *How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe*.
- OLT-1000** **Computer Events Calendar.** A comprehensive weekly listing of major computer and information industry conventions, conferences, seminars and other events. Updated every Sunday.
- OLT-2000** **OLT Special Reports.** A database of analytical news articles on events of major significance in the computer and information industries.
- OLT-3000** **Computer Legislation Database.** A complete listing of all federal legislation affecting the computer and information industry and users of its products and services. The database tracks legislation in the House, Senate and President's Desk through passage to Public Law. This database is updated as required by movement or death of a piece of legislation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- OLT-30** **Letters to the Editor** main menu. Lists all departments.
- OLT-31** **Send a letter** instructions. Complete instructions on how to send a letter to the editor via the electronic service.
- OLT-32** **Read letters** from other OLT readers.
- OLT-33** **Send a letter** to the editor. You will receive prompts for each step in the process. Important Note: We cannot answer questions

regarding the CompuServe Information Service through this service. If you have questions or problems, please use the Feedback service (GO FEEDBACK) or the Online Computer Report Forum (GO RADIO). Also: this service does not have automatic wrap — please enter a carriage return after every 80 characters while composing your letter. Failure to do so will result in truncation of your letter.

REVIEWS

- OLT-200** **Electronic Edition Reviews** main menu. Lists all departments in the Reviews Section of OLT.
- OLT-220** **Hardware Reviews** main menu. Six months library of reviews.
- OLT-3860** **Hardware Reviews for April.**
 - Copy II PC Option Board Backs Up Software Manufacturer**
Central Point Software, Inc.
 - Computers**
IBM PC, PC-AT, PC-XT and compatible computers.
 - Graphics Solution Display Card Manufacturer**
Array Technologies, Inc.
 - Computers**
IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and many compatibles.
 - MultiModem MT224EH**
2400-BPS Modem With MNP Protocol Manufacturer
Multi-Tech Systems, Inc.
 - Computers**
Any with serial communication port.
 - Tandy Model 600 Portable Computer Manufacturer**
Tandy Corp./Radio Shack
 - Computer**
Tandy 600 Portable Computer.
 - X20 Diskit Internal Hard Disk Subsystem Manufacturer**
IDEAssociates, Inc.
 - Computers**
IBM PC and PC-XT computers.
- OLT-3870** **Software Reviews for April.**
 - Beyond Compare Documents File Changes Manufacturer**
General Transformation Corp.

C O N T E N T S

E L E C T R O N I C E D I T I O N

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.

Dow Jones Market Manager PLUS

Manufacturer

Dow Jones & Co., Inc.

Computers

IBM PC, XT and compatibles; available for Macintosh.

Graphics Department For Apples

Manufacturer

Sensible Software, Inc.

Computers

Apple II family.

Impersonator Emulates Asynchronous Terminals

Manufacturer

Direct.Aid, Inc.

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT or compatibles.

In-House Accountant Software

Manufacturer

United Software Industries

Computers

IBM PC, XT and compatibles.

KnowledgeMan/2 Integrated Software

Manufacturer

Micro Data Base Systems, Inc.

Computers

Numerous computers including IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles, most MS-DOS computers, DEC VAX-11, etc.

Little Black Book Label Maker And File Converter

Manufacturer

Cygnal Technologies, Inc.

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT and 100% compatible microcomputers.

MicroExpert "Expert Systems" Software

Manufacturer

McGraw-Hill Book Co.

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.

Reflex: The Analyst Database

Manufacturer

Borland International Inc.

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatible computers.

Symphony Spelling Checker

Manufacturer

Lotus Development Corp.

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PC Portable and true compatibles; Compaq Portable, Plus and Deskpro.

Upgraded Teleterm-EM For Telecommunications

Manufacturer

Telexpress, Inc.

Computers

IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles; most Tandy systems (-EM version not available for TRS-80 Model III); multi-user UNIX/XENIX systems.

OLT-240 **Book Reviews** main menu. Six-month library of reviews.

OLT-3880 **Book Reviews for April.**

Turbo Pascal Tricks & Tips by Joachim Sgonina and Adrian Warner, Abacus Software

Macintosh Midnight Madness: Utilities, Games and Other

Grand Diversions in Microsoft BASIC for the Apple Macintosh

by Mitchell Waite, Dan Putterman, Don Urquhart and Chuck Blanchard, Microsoft Press

Mac Software for Pennies

by Bertram Gader and Manuel V. Nodar, Warner Books, Inc.

Steve Ciarcia's Ask Byte

by Steve Ciarcia, edited by Phillip R. Robinson, Osborne/McGraw-Hill

PC-DOS/MS-DOS: User's Guide to the Most Popular Operating System for Personal Computers

by Alan M. boyd, Bantam Computer Books

OLT-250 **New Product Announcements** main menu. Six month library. New Product Announcements.

OLT-3890 **New Product Announcements for April.**

Tiptok software utility program that automatically backs up a computer's hard disk, Alloy Computer Products, Inc.

PC-7000 lightweight transportable personal computer, Sharp Electronics Corp.

Word Writer 128 an 80-column professional word processing system for the Commodore 128, Timeworks, Inc.

Sensible Grammar

proofreading, grammar-checking program for the Apple II computer, Sensible Software, Inc. **wsNOTE** accessory for WordStar

that produces numbered footnotes or endnotes, Pacetek

Quartet business accounting system for MS-DOS computers, Tandy Corp./Radio Shack

Turbo 350 backup power supply system, PTI Industries brother M-1109, full featured dot matrix personal printer, Brother International Corp.

Diskat Disk Sleeve a vinyl sleeve designed to replace conventional paper disk sleeves, Leinbach Inc.

PractiGraph business presentation graphics program, PractiCorp International, Inc.

ADVERTISERS

EBB-11 **Instructions** on use of the Electronic Bounce Back reader service system.

EBB-160 **Online Today Display ads** main menu for past three months.

EBB-20 **Ad descriptions** and EBB response system for April.

EBB-70 **Shopper's Guide**

MISCELLANEOUS

OLT-352 *How to contact OLT editors.*

OLT-353 *How to report news to Online Today.*

OLT-357 *Online Today Electronic Edition index of key pages.*

Looking for Some Good Reading?

You'll find more computer book reviews in the *Electronic Edition of Online Today*. Just type GO OLT from any prompt in CompuServe and choose "Product Reviews" from the main menu.

PSSST!

Get behind the scenes with Monitor's "Behind the Screens" section on the *Electronic Edition of Online Today*. Find out what's really going on. GO OLT from any prompt in CompuServe and select "Monitor Daily News" from the main menu.

ONLINE
T O D A Y
E L E C T R O N I C E D I T I O N

How to use CompuServe®...in seconds. Without a computer.

Get the \$498 APT from RCA.

Now there's a better way to access the vast informational resources of CompuServe and other online data bases—without an expensive computer—or extensive computer experience. All you need is the RCA APT, a telephone line, and a TV set or display monitor.

Get on line in seconds.

With the touch of single key, the APT terminal can dial the data base you select, log into the host computer, and return control to you, to begin your search for the information you want.

APT's programmable personality.

For example, you can pre-program APT to match the communications requirements of CompuServe and other data bases you select. The auto dial feature provides tone or pulse dialing of up to 26 stored telephone numbers for voice or data base calls, with log-on sequences entered automatically after dialing. Password protection can limit access to designated numbers.

Built-in modem.

APT is available with your choice of either a 1200/300- or 300-baud modem that connects directly to your phone line.

Professional keyboard design.

APT has a 60-key typewriter style alphanumeric keypad plus a 16-key calculator pad for quick entry of numerical data and phone numbers.

Two user keys allow convenient selection of printer or other operating modes. Four user-programmable function keys save entry time by sending a multiple character string to the host computer with a single keypress.

Standard monitor or TV display.

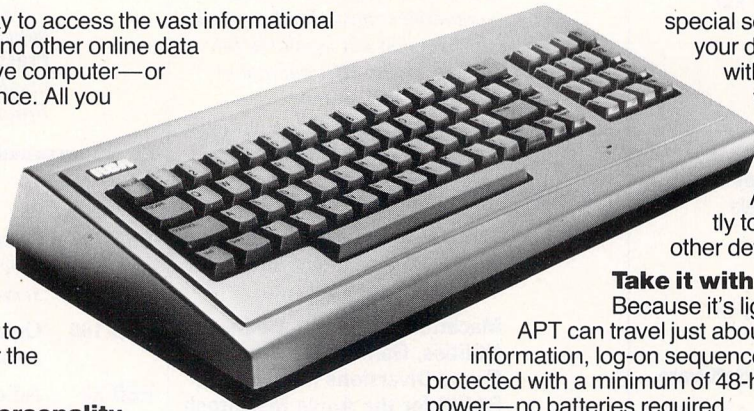
APT terminals have video output for either an 80- or 40-character by 24 line display on a standard monitor, as well as 40-character output for a TV set display. The 24th line can be selected to display telephone, printer and on-line status.

All you need to communicate.

Even if you already use a personal computer, it probably requires a modem, communication board and

APT VP4801, 300-baud modem, \$498.
APT VP5801, 1200/300-baud modem, \$798.
Optional VP4012D display monitor, \$199.

CompuServe is a registered trademark of CompuServe, Incorporated.



special software to communicate with your data base. APT can do it without costly add-ons, and without tying up an expensive computer system designed primarily for other tasks. With its RS232C port, APT can also connect directly to a computer system or other devices.

Take it with you.

Because it's lightweight and briefcase size, APT can travel just about anywhere. Directory information, log-on sequences and set-up parameters are protected with a minimum of 48-hours backup, without plug-in power—no batteries required.

Many other features.

APT also provides a printer port for hard copy, input for an acoustical coupler for use when direct phone line connection is unavailable, a built-in speaker with adjustable volume control, and much more.

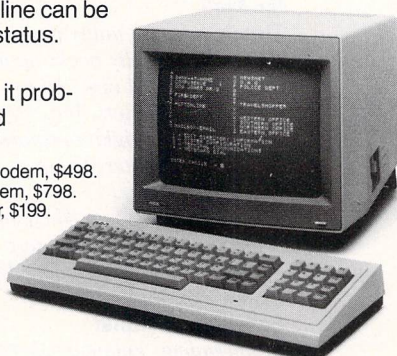
The price is right.

The APT VP4801 terminal with built-in 300-baud modem lists at \$498; the VP5801 with built-in 1200/300-baud modem lists at \$798. The optional VP4012D display monitor is \$199 list.

APT: No better way to communicate.

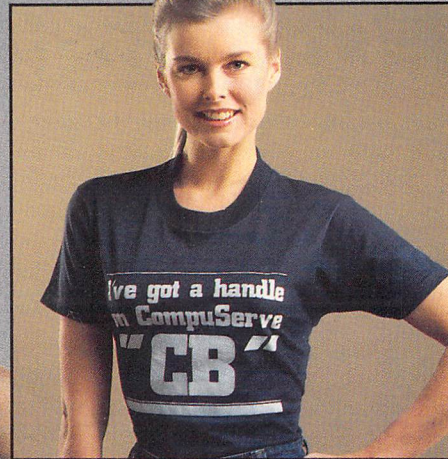
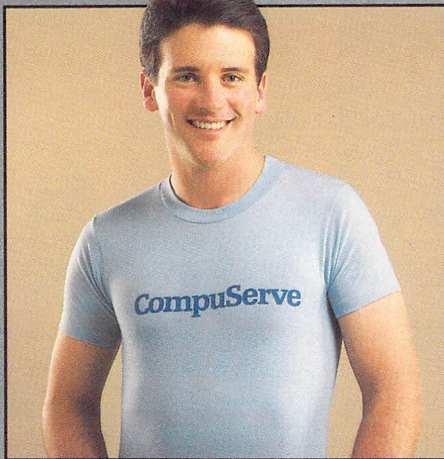
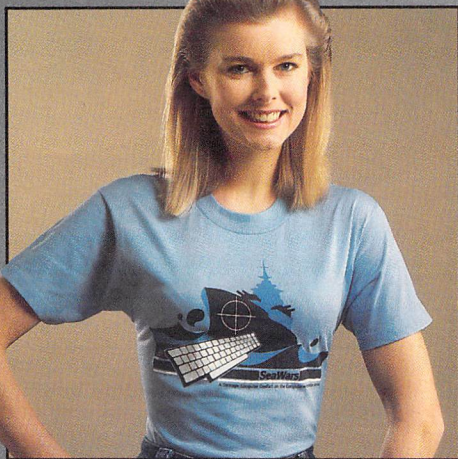
We know of no other professional quality terminal that can do as much as APT, and at such reasonable cost. For complete specifications, call 800-233-0187 and ask for the full-color APT brochure. To order, call 800-722-0094. (In PA, call 717-295-6922). VISA and MasterCard are accepted. Or write to RCA Data Communications Products, New Holland Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17604.

800-RCA-0094



RCA

New Products Division



BlackDragon T-Shirt

NEW! If you've traversed the Labyrinth, bartered with your gold, engaged the evil Arch Demon and earned admittance to the BlackDragon Explorers Hall Of Fame . . . (or even if you've done nothing more than hike this enchanted land) . . . you owe yourself a BlackDragon T-shirt. Available in white on black and in small, medium or large sizes.

Reg. \$5.95 **SALE PRICE \$4.95**

CompuServe T-shirt, several colors.

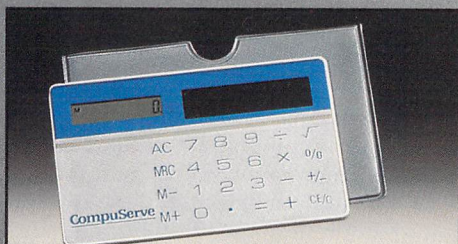
Reg. \$5.95 **SALE PRICE \$4.95**

SeaWars T-shirt, light blue.

Reg. \$5.95 **SALE PRICE \$4.95**

"I've Got A Handle On CompuServe CB" T-shirt, selected colors.

Reg. \$5.95 **SALE PRICE \$4.95**



CompuServe Solar Calculator

This water thin, six function calculator is powered by cells that respond to solar or artificial light and comes with a carrying case. No larger than a credit card, it still holds a CompuServe command summary on its back.

Reg. \$8.95 **SALE PRICE \$6.95**



CompuServe's Three-ring Binders

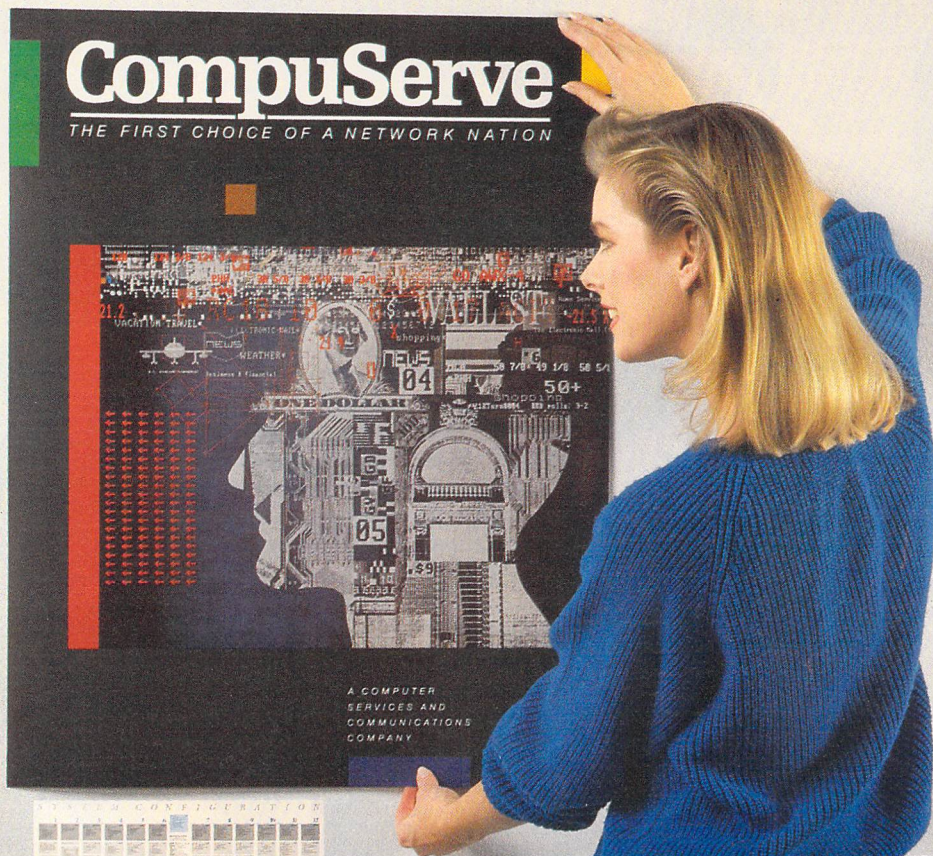
These sturdy vinyl three-ring binders are available in several sizes and silk-screened with the CompuServe logo.

- 1" spine, holds 8½" x 11" pages
Reg. \$3.95 **SALE PRICE \$3.49**
- 1½" spine, holds 8½" x 11" pages
Reg. \$4.89 **SALE PRICE \$3.89**
- 1½" hardboard binder and slipcase, holds 5½" x 8½" pages
Reg. \$5.95 **SALE PRICE \$4.95**



CompuServe

THE FIRST CHOICE OF A NETWORK NATION



System Configuration Wall Chart

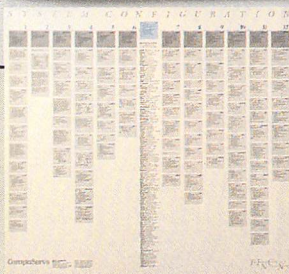
Know where you're headed and you'll enjoy a quicker trip. That's the logic behind this 33" x 35" Wall Chart. Includes an alphabetic Quick Word list and reproductions of all screens appearing on the Top Menu and all screens accessible from those initial choices.

Reg. \$3.95 **SALE PRICE \$2.95**

CompuServe: First Choice of a Network Nation (Poster)

NEW! World-renowned illustrator, Fred Otnes, was commissioned by CompuServe to provide a fine artist's vision of information age participation. His colorful and attractive solution is now a full color 23" x 30" wall poster. It is a handsome addition to the computer alcove of any home or office. Shipped unfolded in a sturdy mailing tube.

Reg. \$6.95 **SALE PRICE \$4.95**



FREE! As a special incentive to place an online order during the Fingershopping Sale period, any order over \$25.00 placed between March 1 and April 31 will receive a NEW System Configuration Wall Chart FREE. The chart will be included automatically in qualifying orders, there is no need to enter an order for your bonus item.

GO ORDER at any ! prompt for more sale-priced merchandise!

Complete descriptions and prices for all products available for fingershopping can be found online. GO ORDER at any ! prompt. Enjoy special savings on selected products.

GUIDES

- CompuServe Information Service Users Guide — with reference cards and a Service Menu Diagram (same guide as found in the Subscription Kit).
Reg. \$14.95 **PRICE \$10.95**
- EasyPlex Users Guide (now included in current Information Service Users Guide) (new 7/85).
Reg. \$7.95 **PRICE \$6.95**
- Forum Users Guide (now included in current Information Service Users Guide) (new 7/85).
Reg. \$8.95 **PRICE \$7.95**
- MicroQuote™ Users Guide (new 6/84).
Reg. \$6.95 **PRICE \$5.95**
- ROOT Users Guide.
Reg. \$1.00 **PRICE \$0.90**
- REGRE Users Guide.
Reg. \$1.00 **PRICE \$0.90**

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- 35" x 33" System Configuration Wall Chart.
Reg. \$3.95 **PRICE \$2.95**

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- 1" CompuServe vinyl binder with logo for 8½" x 11" pages.
Reg. \$3.95 **PRICE \$3.49**

- 1½" CompuServe vinyl binder with logo for 8½" x 11" pages.
Reg. \$4.25 **PRICE \$3.89**
- 1½" CompuServe hardboard binder and slipcase with logo for 5½" x 8½" pages.
Reg. \$5.95 **PRICE \$4.95**

GAMES MERCHANDISE

- Guide to CompuServe Games — available 3/86.
Reg. \$14.95 **PRICE \$10.95**
- MegaWars I Commander's Briefing Guide.
Reg. \$7.95 **PRICE \$5.95**
- MegaWars III — The New Empire Users Guide.
Reg. \$6.95 **PRICE \$4.95**
- 350 Point Adventure Game Map.
Reg. \$3.95 **PRICE \$2.95**
- 751 Point Adventure Game Map.
Reg. \$4.95 **PRICE \$3.95**
- Adventure Game Color Poster.
Reg. \$4.95 **PRICE \$3.95**
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Reg. \$6.95 **PRICE \$5.95**
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French Electronic Directory

The article by Cathryn Conroy in *Monitor* (December 1985) was interesting but omitted historical facts, which when added, cast the French Electronic Directory project (le Directoire) in a less rosy light. As I was attempting to sell LSI components to Sagem and Alcatel, two of the French firms that designed and supplied the terminals, I saw the Directoire debacle up close.

The concept of eliminating the paper throw-away directory (obsolete-before-printed, *n'est pas*?) is super. Instead, just supply each subscriber with a low-cost terminal for about \$100 and allow tapping of the existing database. The savings in printing and distribution costs would pay for the terminals over the years and even save money in the long run.

So much for the plans. The job was so badly bungled that it became a national joke. The terminals wound up costing over \$200 each and had serious design problems. The styling was great, but when you folded the keyboard up to the screen, the static charge blew out the unprotected keyboard scanning integrated circuit. Instead of highly integrating the design into a few superchips, they used more than a dozen. The firm I worked for offered them integration, but it was rejected as we were not a French firm (buy French, *n'est pas*?)

To make matters worse, they chose a small northern province in which to test the Directoire, and everyone was afraid to use it (computer-phobia, *n'est pas*?) Only 100,000 units initially were made and distributed. Last I heard, the government decided to charge the users. After all, they didn't stop printing paper directories yet, did they? Other problems surfaced, such as poor spellers, illiteracy and general resistance to change. Where do you put the thing, anyway? Next to the toaster? Users had to run unsightly line cords for powering the Directoire, and it couldn't be slipped into a little drawer. To accommodate the poor spellers, the database doubled in size. I suspect that voice recognition will be perfected, and will be the input device for directory assistance.

The French were ahead of their time. Marketing mistakes in socialized industries are simply bankruptcies borne by the taxpayers. Perhaps if they had integrated it into a wall mounted unit with the phone attached . . .

Michael Neidich
New York, N.Y.

Electronic Gateways

I'd like to see a detailed article about the hardware that is used in operating the CompuServe Information Service. I'd also like to know about the electronic switching process that happens when I access services such as The Electronic Mall.

Orville H. Bullitt III
Miami Shores, Fla.

Editor's note: We plan to have an article about services connected by electronic gateways in the July issue.

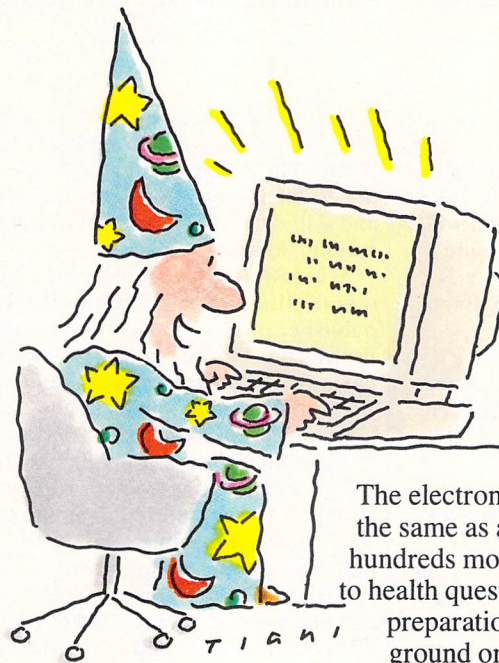
Yesterday's News Option

Often when I access *Online Today Electronic Edition* in the morning, I see the "Yesterday's Late News" option on page OLT-90. I like this option very much and would like to see it stay on the OLT-90 menu through the afternoon.

Chris Allen
Jacksonville, Fla.

Editor's note: Thanks for the suggestion. We now are keeping the "Yesterday's Late News" feature on OLT-90.

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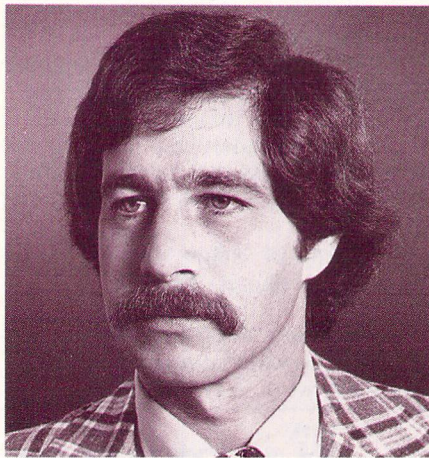
*The Whiz Quiz Trademark of Grolier Electronic Publishing, Inc.

College of Telecommunication Knowledge

The directors of most corporate telecommunication operations have no academic training in this relatively new high-tech area. The State University of New York at Albany is trying to remedy the situation with a new telecommunication management program designed exclusively for telecommunication professionals from state agencies and corporations.

"The program is attempting to take a systematic approach to answering the needs of telecommunication managers," said Dr. Richard B. Dressner, associate vice president of SUNY-Albany. "This is direct, applied education."

Taught by practicing professionals, the courses examine such subjects as



the impact of telecommunication on organizations and on the management of information within them, the development and uses of telecommunication systems in educational, business and public settings, the formulation of social and

public policy affecting telecommunication such as regulations and rates and, finally, changes in socio-economic systems and the behavior of individuals and groups resulting from new forms of telecommunication.

Classes, which meet once a week from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m., are problem-centered and designed for maximum discussion and participation among the 45 students. Dinner is included to encourage informal exchanges.

The program is offered by the newly formed Center for the Study of Telecommunication, a consortium of SUNY campuses in the Albany region that includes six community colleges and Empire State College in addition to the University Center at Albany. Future plans call for offering the program at other locations around New York state.

— Cathryn Conroy

Assorted Bits

The 9 to 5 chapter in Baltimore is lobbying Maryland state legislators to enact tough video display terminal legislation. The organization, representing the interests of female office workers, wants all VDT-equipped businesses to provide workers with detachable keyboards, adjustable screens with variable illumination and drapes to combat glare.

NEC Corp., one of the Japanese semiconductor makers accused of dumping underpriced chips on the U.S. market, has raised the price of its chips by 20 percent.

Commodore International has reshuffled its executive ranks. Former chief executive officer Marshall F. Smith is now vice chairman of the company's board of directors, and Thomas J. Rattigan, a new hire from PepsiCo Inc., is Commodore's new president. According to a statement from the West Chester, Pa., company, Rattigan will report to Smith. Rattigan also was elected to Commodore's board of directors.

AT&T plans to manufacture and market a high-contrast, distortion-free plasma display. Prototype plasma displays are now in production at AT&T Technology Systems' manufacturing location in Reading, Pa. Production in quantity, as well as custom designs, will be available in mid-1986.

The U.S. Army has awarded Grid Systems Corp. a \$2.4 million contract for the delivery of 400 Grid portable computers plus software and peripheral products. The Grid portable computers will be integrated with a tactical telephone

switchboard developed by GTE Government Systems under contract to the Army. The computers will provide automated communications control facilities and will serve as the primary communications device for field use.

Ashton-Tate has completed its acquisition of MultiMate International Corp., publisher of the best-selling MultiMate Professional Word Processor software package. To complete the acquisition, Ashton-Tate paid approximately \$22 million in cash for MultiMate's assets.

The United States, Canada and Japan have reached an agreement to eliminate most tariffs on imported computer parts. The accord will reduce the cost of selling U.S. computer equipment abroad.

CBS Inc. has announced that it is discontinuing its home market-oriented CBS Software unit and has formed a new division to "explore new applications of interactive learning materials for the educational and medical markets." The new division, called CBS Interactive Learning, is headed by Edmund R. Auer, the same man who presided over CBS Software's consumer market efforts.

Columbia Data Products Inc. recently filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy papers and its assets were liquidated to pay off its creditors.

Sperry Corp. has entered into an agreement with Japan's Hitachi Ltd. Under the accord, the two firms will evaluate each other's technology to determine if there are mutual benefits to be gained through their cooperation.

Steve Wozniak has purchased \$5 million worth of stock in Apple Computer Inc. and is contemplating buying up to \$15 million more of the company's stock. Wozniak says that he believes Apple is "moving in the right direction."

IBM has entered into a joint agreement with AgriData Resources Inc., a Milwaukee company that delivers online data to the agriculture industry. The agreement calls for AgriData's service, which is delivered via phone lines to personal computers, to be offered under IBM's Information Network.

Eastman Kodak Co. has introduced a new family of high-capacity disk drives. The systems include three drives offering 3.3, 6.6 and 12.0 megabytes of unformatted storage capacity.

Zenith Electronics Corp. recently introduced a "three-dimensional" touch-screen system. The device uses inaudible sound waves to form a matrix on the screen. When a finger interrupts the sound waves, a microprocessor locates the source of the break and the amount of pressure being applied.

Gateway Videotex Service officials in southern California are disappointed with the operation's results during its first year of operation. Speaking at an Information Industry Association conference in Washington a few months ago, Gateway President James Holly acknowledged that the videotex service has attracted fewer than 2,000 paying subscribers.

— John Edwards



Tech Under Glass

The wizardry of modern technology may still be a mystery to most folks, but a permanent exhibit created by Illinois Bell will help solve the high-tech riddle.

The new ExpoCenter, located in Chicago, features a series of hands-on exhibits, allowing viewers to push buttons or touch television screens that control exhibits on such topics as holograms, integrated circuits, fiber optics, microprocessors and smart telephones.

Designed to inform as well as entertain, the ExpoCenter exhibit "is a clear signal to our customers that we have both today's and tomorrow's technology, and we can deliver," said Ormand J. Wade, president of Illinois Bell.

The central attraction is the Video Wall, a three-tiered array of 25 computer-controlled television monitors that work together to present the sights and sounds of the information age.

At the light-guide display, electronic tones are transmitted on a beam of light over glass fibers. The viewer can interrupt the sounds by putting a finger in the beam of light.

ExpoCenter also includes a speech synthesizer, which "reads" messages visitors type on a built-in keyboard and then repeats the message in a computer-generated voice.

The videotex exhibit features a terminal on which the visitor can call up information on stocks, weather, sports results, Chicago-area attractions and other subjects. Demonstrations of interactive videotex services, such as banking, shopping and ticket reservations, are also provided.

One exhibit allows visitors to receive freeze-frame pictures of people several miles away, at the Illinois Bell exhibit in Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, by dialing the museum from a telephone connected to a Tele-Imager 2000 monitor.

— Cathryn Conroy

M O N I T O R

Hot off the Phosphor

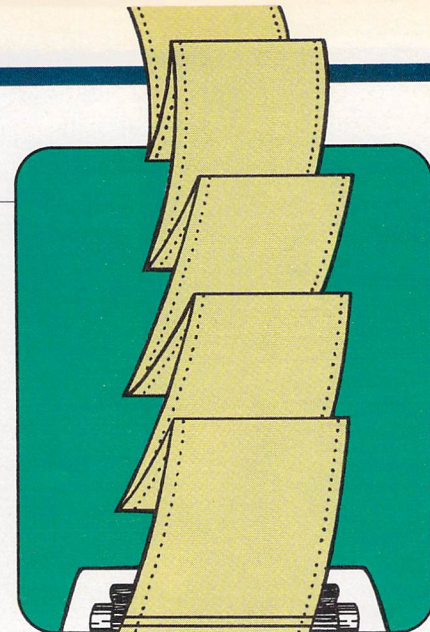
The world of electronic publishing is evolving so rapidly that manufacturers and users are still defining its frontiers, contends Eastman-Kodak executive Lawrence J. Matteson.

Although this uncertainty will continue for some time, he says. "It's healthy because it challenges manufacturers to develop new ideas and products and encourages users to help guide the evolution of this new industry in directions that best serve their needs."

If the direction of the industry is still in question, the term "electronic publishing" is also vague. Matteson notes that it has been used to describe everything from PC-generated text and graphics to high-end commercial publishing systems.

The quantity of information generated by business and government organizations is expected to grow an astounding 5 percent each year through the next 10 years.

"The real challenge is not just to find ways to manage information more productively, but to use information to make

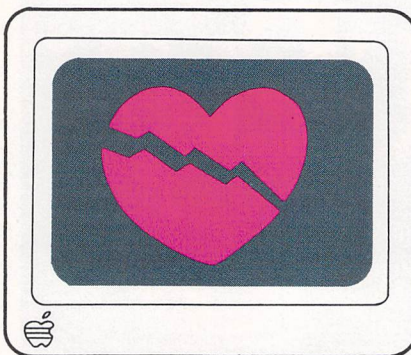


our organizations more productive," says Matteson.

Using electronic publishing, information systems are now emerging that will better organize information, he adds.

"The great promise of integrated information systems is not just more and cheaper information, but information delivered more rapidly, to more different kinds of users, in forms more precisely tailored to their needs," he predicts.

— Cathryn Conroy



Who Loves An Orphan?

Pity the poor orphan computer. Nobody loves him. Software companies, book publishers, magazine editors and hardware manufacturers all ignore him. Even his parents, mighty companies like Apple, IBM and Tandy, refuse to acknowledge his existence or lend his owners any support. So sad.

Frank Moore owns an Apple III (an orphan computer if ever there was one), and he thinks it is up to the owners of these obsolete systems to band together and support each other. To this end, he has launched *The III Magazine*, a monthly periodical for and about Apple III owners.

"We receive little or no assistance from Apple Computer Inc. or from most of the traditional publications," Moore says.

"This is understandable, since the Apple III owners no longer represent a large share of the computer market."

But Moore feels that Apple III users, despite the fact that their computer has been discontinued for some three years, own a good computer system and are in a position to help themselves. "Many of us invested tens of thousands of dollars in our machines and its peripherals, and we did so because we were extremely impressed with the Apple III as a user's computer. After reviewing hundreds of other machines, amid the hoopla about IBMs, Macintoshes, MS-DOS this and that, I still find our machines to be absolutely state-of-the-art."

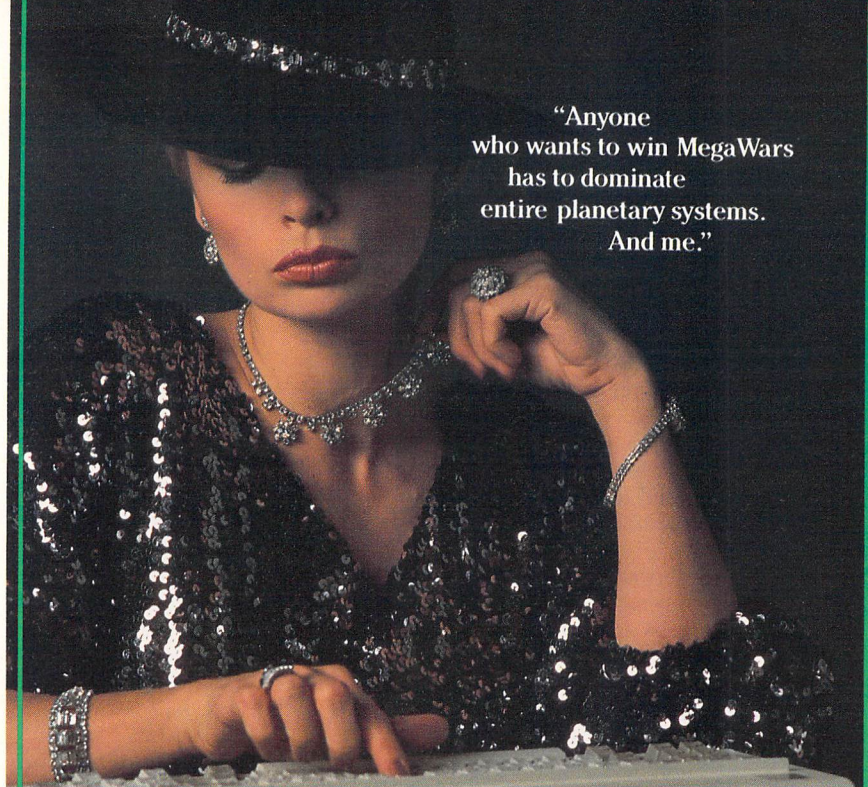
Well, you can debate that. Still, Moore has attracted some 2,000 readers to his publication, which he claims has established a reputation for "fair reporting, timely delivery and informative articles." Now he's looking for the other 60,000 or so Apple III owners out there.

If you're one of these people, or just have an affinity for orphans, you can contact Moore at *The III Magazine*, 3201 Murchison Way, Carmichael, CA 95608; 916/485-6525.

And when you reach Frank, give him a pat on the back, or maybe even a nice, big hug. He'll appreciate the thought.

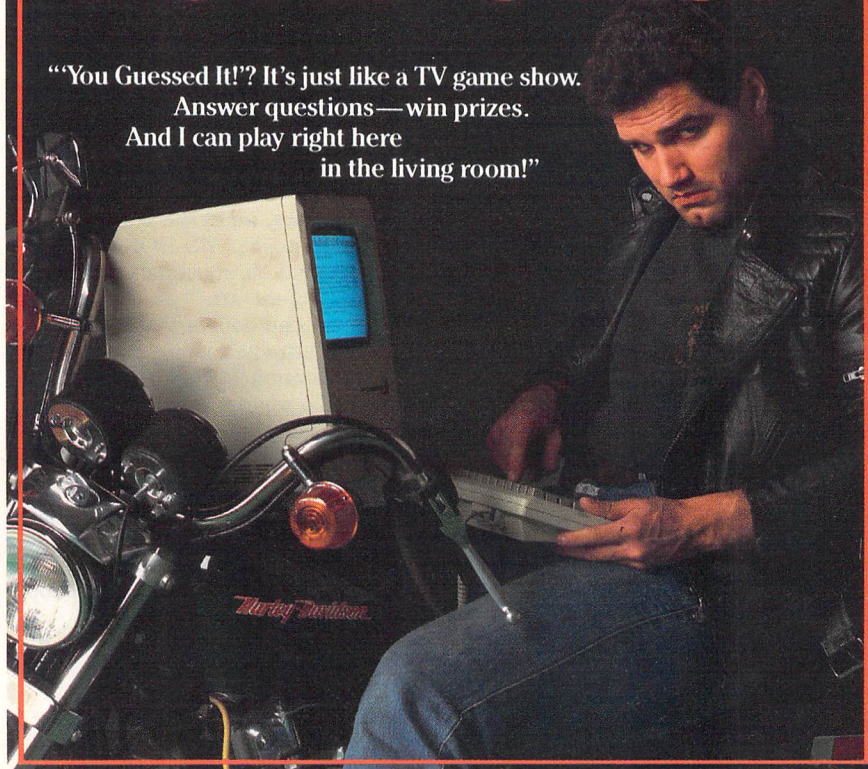
— John Edwards

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For Floppy Yuppies

What do you give the yuppie who has everything? A gold-plated tofu fork? A BMW with corduroy sidewalls? Sissy stuff. We have just the thing — a leather floppy-disk carrier.

The Disk Cache features two pouches that can hold up to eight 5¼-inch floppy disks each. The product is hand-crafted, available in burgundy, brown, black or taupe and is lined with anti-static mylar. This portable social statement fits comfortably inside any briefcase and is priced at \$89. Oh yes, the final yuppie touch: You also can have your initials engraved into the leather in 22-karat gold.

More details are available from the manufacturer, Computer Scooter, at 212/206-0053. And be sure to use your cellular phone.

For All the ATMs in China

Who would have ever thought it?

NCR Corp. has installed the first automatic teller machine in China. The unit will be operated as a test case by the Nantung Bank in Zhuhai, an economic "free zone" near the Hong Kong border.

According to Raymond Yu, manager of NCR's China division, the installation will enable Hong Kong and Macau residents who travel to Zhuhai to obtain cash advances and receive a variety of other typical ATM services. The machine will not be available to citizens of the People's Republic.

Yu says that Chinese banks will have to adopt state-of-the-art technology if they hope to compete with services offered by foreign financial institutions operating both inside and outside of China. "There's a great potential for both ATM and microcomputer companies in China," he says. "We think it will take a few more years for the demand to get off of the ground, but when it does arrives China should be a hot market."

My Teacher Or Big Brother?

Florida is planning to create a computerized network of student records, but at least two of the state's school boards are opposing the plan on moral grounds.

A two-year-old state directive requires school districts to enter comprehensive

profiles of all of their students into the Florida Information Resource Network, a statewide database that, when completed, will include information on students' marks, disciplinary problems, language ability, handicaps and other pertinent data. The system, according to state education officials, is designed to reduce paperwork, speed information retrieval and curb duplicate and erroneous records.

The database is scheduled to go online in 1987, but officials of school districts in Lake County and Marion County claim the system amounts to little more than a government-sanctioned invasion of students' privacy.

Carole Parrish, a spokesperson for the Marion County school board puts it succinctly: "The state is using this powerful computer technology to violate fundamental citizen rights." Parrish and Anna Cowin, a representative of the Lake County board, are asking the Florida School Boards Association to appeal the database directive to the state legislature and the Florida State Education Department.

The association and Education Department, however, are not moved by Parrish's and Cowin's request. "We don't understand this opposition to the network," says an Education Department spokesperson. "Safeguards are built into the network to keep the information from falling into the wrong hands. We don't see the problem."

But Parrish claims "promises are no guarantee" and says the only way to protect the privacy of the state's students is to compile the information anonymously. To that end, late last year, the Lake County board approved a measure that prevents its district from releasing any information that specifically identifies students. The Marion County board, at press time, was considering a similar measure.

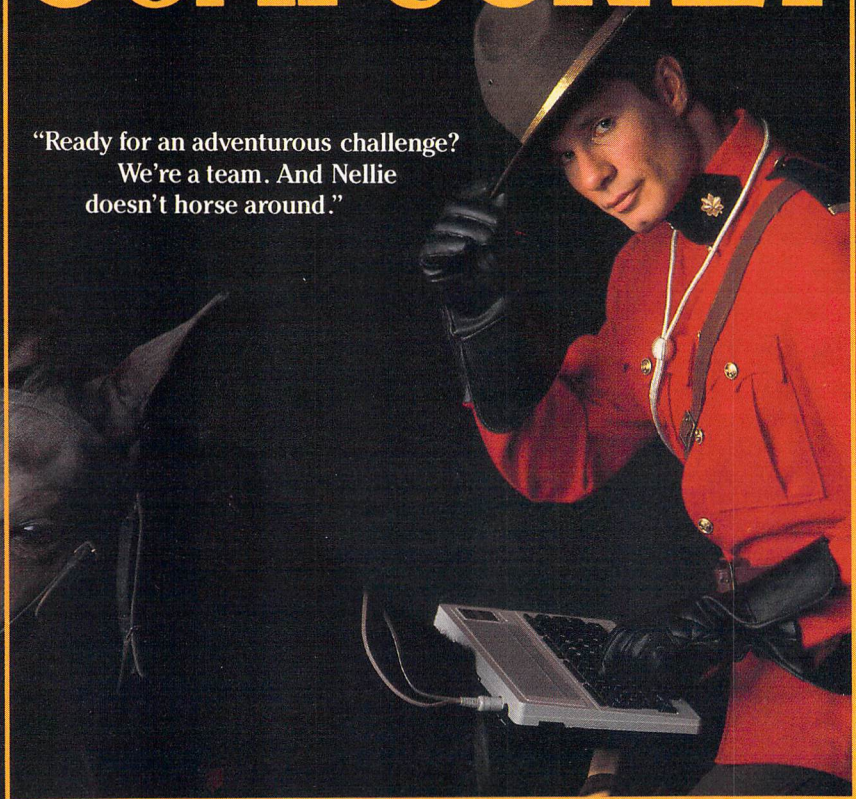
The Education Department says that anonymous data would be "worthless." But as a compromise, the Education Department has proposed organizing the data by student identification number instead of by name or Social Security number.

Parrish, however, remains unconvinced. "As long as you link the information to the student, no matter by what method, the potential for abuse exists. Where will all of this data collection end?" she asks.

— John Edwards

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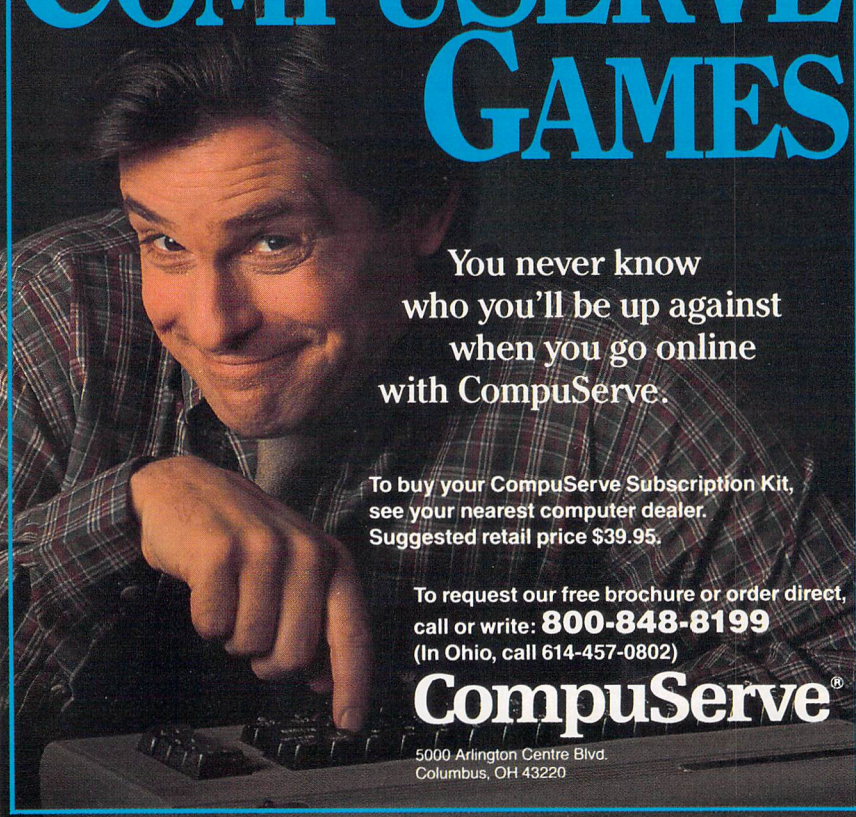
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Ah, travel. It can be so broadening — once you get there. Unfortunately, to get wherever “there” is, you have to do some planning, and it’s the planning that most people hate. Because they hate planning, they do it poorly. And because they plan poorly, their trips often aren’t all they could be.

The key to breaking this cycle of poor planning/less-than-perfect trip, according to CompuServe Travel Product Manager John Matura, is to look at why people dislike making travel arrangements. After all the excuses are sifted and tallied, he says, it comes down to two factors: lack of confidence and lack of time.

“Unfortunately, many otherwise intelligent people are intimidated when it comes to dealing with airline and hotel information,” says Matura, whose opinions are backed with years of travel agency experience. “They think making these arrangements is a complicated, time-consuming procedure.

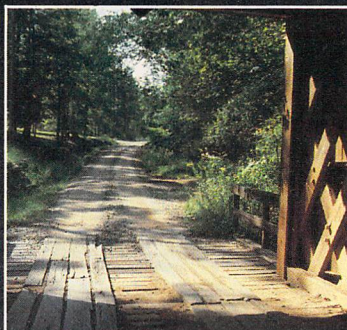
“So they throw up their hands and turn the whole thing over to a travel agent who has hundreds of other clients to serve and can’t possibly provide the kind of personal attention you can give yourself.

“When you have someone else plan your trip, you miss a lot of information because you allow that person to make your choices for you,” Matura explains. “You also lose out on the joy of planning your trip — and planning can be a pleasure if you’ll just give yourself a chance to experience it.”

Experiencing that pleasure using online travel services can take as little as 20 minutes, if you need to make only simple airline and hotel arrangements. Matura says airline reservations take the longest — about eight minutes — and hotel and car arrangements take only a few minutes each. “You’ll be able to plan a personalized trip, including visiting one of the travel forums, in about an hour,” he adds.

Matura describes the travel menu as “very functional” because it is divided into subject categories, including airlines, hotels, car information, international information and domestic information. Each category leads users to a menu of databases covering all category-related information. The command GO TRAVEL takes you to the main travel menu, or you may access databases directly. (See related article for listing of GO commands.)

Travel Forums for Friends, Facts, Fun
Forum Administrator Larry Wood of



VACAT

USE ONLINE PLANNING

Educational Media Services, who serves as information provider for Sun and Sand Vacations (GO SNS) and Discover Orlando (GO ORLANDO), says the Florida Forum resulted from the popularity of travel databases. “It was natural to create a forum to give people a place to discuss the various aspects of their visits to Florida, the Bahamas or the Caribbean,” Wood says.

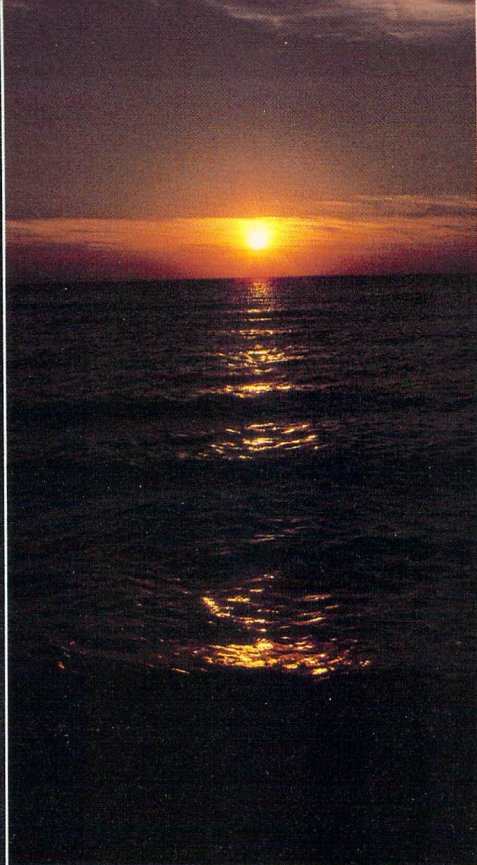
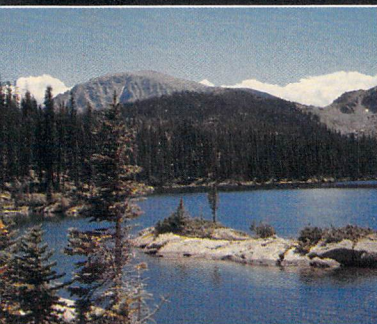
Topics addressed in the Florida Forum include attractions, recreation, getting around and traveling for the handicapped. Wood says he plans to add maps that use the forum’s graphics capabilities. “We want to use our ‘Pics and Pix’ area to illustrate the most practical path around the various facilities, as well as to show where hotels are located in relation to attractions.”

A Disney trivia contest during weekly

conferences (9 p.m. Tuesdays) is one of the popular forum offerings. Winners accumulate points that can be traded for such prizes as golf clubs, posters, vacation guides and Disney World tickets. A travel expert is on hand after the contest to answer questions about Florida tourist attractions.

Special conferences with various guests are also scheduled. One of the more well-attended conferences featured Mel Fisher of Treasure Salvors, who discussed his crew’s \$400 million sunken treasure find.

The forum also provides a message center hosted by the Florida Division of Tourism for questions on relocating to Florida, vacationing and other travel queries. The Division provides Florida Ramblings, a series of articles about little-known Florida getaways.



ATIONS

TO MAKE THEM PERFECT

By Carole Houze Gerber

Native Floridians and vacationers from around the country met last summer at Epcot to solidify the online friendships they previously established in the Florida Forum. According to Forum Administrator Larry Wood, the event was a great success.

"It was very interesting to watch the users search each other based on their online impressions," he recalls. Wood says one family solved the problem by wearing Florida T-shirts with their CompuServe "handles" on the back. After introductions were made, the whole group got together for coffee and crepes at the France Pavilion and then traveled together — very fittingly — to see Future World and World Showcase. A group dinner at the Germany Pavilion was followed by a laser light show at the edge of an Epcot lagoon.

Wood is planning a second annual Florida Forum Day at Epcot — date to be announced online — and is also considering a forum day at Sea World or Busch Gardens.

Activities for Children

Leisure travel for most families involves activities for children as well as adults, and the Florida Forum's Wonders of Disney (GO ORL-286) makes planning easy. Designed for children between the ages of 10 and 15, the Wonders of Disney offers a selection of three day-long programs (including lunch) in Orlando. These include "The Walt Disney World of Entertainment," "Exploring Nature: A True-Life Adventure," and "Energy." If you make reservations and pay for the program 45 days in advance, your child will receive a book

providing advance class preparation. There is no hard-and-fast registration deadline, however, and children who don't register in time for the advance book will receive one on site the day of the program.

"Wonders" programs are action-packed and interesting as well as educational. For example, children enrolled in the entertainment program go backstage to talk with Disney performers to learn about costume and set design. They also visit with a Disney artist who will help them create their own Disney characters. This program is described as "a canvas you walk into, illustrating that art is all around you." Forum Administrator Wood says more information on all Wonders of Disney activities is available in the forum.

Although he characterizes the forum as a success, Wood describes it as "still an infant, to which we plan to add many new features, such as more conferences that bring people to us for little electronic vacations. Even if they can't get to the Magic Kingdom in person, they can join us in the Florida Forum on the soft sandy beaches of our conference area."

Sharing the Travel Experience

A more general forum, managed by Floyd Fessler, also known as "Captain Wooky," is the Travel Forum (GO TRA-12). Fessler says one objective of this forum is providing needed information to fellow vacationers, but he also tries to stimulate interest in travel by encouraging members to share travel experiences. These objectives are addressed in the data library, the message board and the conference area of the forum.

"In the data library we have files from members who have traveled all over the world — about where they've been, what they've done, and their suggestions on where to eat and stay," Fessler says. "The message board has shorter versions of these files.

"You might see a message like 'I went to Boogowanda and it was great!' plus messages responding to the comment. Also, people with questions about places they plan to visit post them on the message board, and usually, someone online will have the expertise to respond to their queries."

The Travel Forum also features online conferences — recent guests logged on from London and Germany — as well as travel trivia games.

Databases Provide Destination Info

After checking the travel forums to see who's gone where and why, you'll prob-

ably want more information on potential destinations. That's where travel databases come in. (Or, depending on your needs, you may check the databases first and follow up with a chat on the appropriate forum.) According to travel expert Lee Foster, who operates West Coast Travel (GO WESTCOAST), online data offers advantages over more traditionally packaged travel information.

"More and more travelers are coming to see the benefits of online travel information," Foster says. "Unlike the book you may have stashed away and forgotten, it is always available. It also is always current, and it can become encyclopedic if — like West Coast Travel — the database can expand infinitely."

Foster's West Coast Travel database includes write-ups on 51 destinations in the western half of the United States, from San Diego to Fairbanks and out to the Rockies. Foster says the information in this database is expanding constantly. "Each of the descriptions is designed as a pleasant read, as well as a useful assemblage of information. And the write-ups are updated constantly."

Each write-up includes the following information: flavor of the place, how to get there, history of the area, main attractions and nearby trips. Foster, who has published several travel books and has written chapters in Fodor's and other leading guidebooks, says he is happy to answer online questions about western travel. "All current and past questions and answers are available to users," Foster adds.

For travelers interested in seeing the other end of the country, Sun and Sand Vacations (GO SNS) and Discover Orlando (GO ORLANDO) provide comprehensive information and reservation capabilities for attractions in Florida, the Caribbean, the Bahamas and Mexico, as well as world cruise packages.

Travel Product Manager John Matura advises that the Sun and Sand Vacations database is "great for golfers — it offers a number of golfing packages." Both Discover Orlando and Sun and Sand also will allow you to custom-design your trip and will provide you with maps, coupons and information on attractions. Car rental is available through Discover Orlando, and brochures describing specific locations can be requested through both databases.

If a New England vacation is more to your liking, type GO VERMONT and you'll enter an online state guide provided by the Vermont Office of Tourism. In-

formation includes where to stay, things to do, where to eat, weather conditions and what to wear, as well as specifics on maple sugaring and fall foliage tours.

Data on Vermont cities is listed alphabetically, and the addresses of local state chambers of commerce are included as sources of additional information. Because of its compact size, Vermont makes an ideal vacation destination. In the words of the Department of Tourism: "No matter where you go, you're within a couple of hours of where you want to go next." An alphabetical listing of cities provides specifics on urban attractions.

City travel descriptions on more than 20 major urban attractions are the focus of the National Tourism Citilog (GO CITIES), sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. From Anchorage to St. Petersburg, and dozens of cities in between, you'll find information on museums, places of interest, entertainment, and sporting and special events. This database includes a Feedback area for questions. Matura says you can leave requests for cities not presently online and the Conference of Mayors will track down what you need.

"Citilog also will be having online conferences to highlight special events," Matura says. "For instance, we'll have an expert online to discuss the Spoleto Music Festival scheduled for May in Charleston, S.C."

If foreign travel is your desire, check with American Express Advance (GO AXP or GO AMEX) and the Educational Travel Connection (GO ETC). American Express vacations can take you nearly anywhere in the world, including the United States, Mexico, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Far East. Most vacations planned through American Express offer a variety of services, and many — though not all — provide the option of a tour package that may include an American Express tour manager to escort the trip, transfers between airports and hotels, baggage handling, and other niceties.

If you'd like to combine travel with study, the Educational Travel Connection offers a variety of services designed to "smooth out the bumpy ride of an overseas adventure." From more traditional experiences such as theatre tours in London to archaeological digs in Egypt, ETC provides information on hundreds of schools and other educational organizations offering overseas study. Most programs provide academic credit, and there's even a "travel free" section for those interested in leading tours. An online newsletter, travel trivia

section and specifics on how to get your passport and make other arrangements are also included in the Educational Travel Connection.

Another database offering vital foreign travel aid is the Washington, D.C.-based Visa Advisors Service (GO VISA), with information on what paperwork is needed for entry into most foreign countries. To find out about present political conditions at your destination, as well as the availability of health care and other factors related to your safety, check with the Department of State Advisories (GO DOS).

Finding Accommodations

For comprehensive information on hotel accommodations, look into the A-Z/ABC Hotel Guide (GO HOTELS). The A-Z/ABC Guide contains information on more than 28,000 hotels worldwide and includes the following data: addresses, toll-free phone numbers, rates in U.S. dollars, and sports and leisure facilities. Your online search is narrowed by choosing from price range, exact hotel name, hotel chain, location and amenities such as a courtesy van and continental breakfast.

The Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition now offers an online guide to hotels and motels worldwide. By typing a /H and <CR>, you'll receive a complete alphabetical listing of accommodations, including name, address, location, range of room rates and quality rating. After choosing accommodations, you'll need to phone the selected hotel or motel to reserve your room.

If your stay will be extended, you may prefer to look into swapping or renting accommodations. The Worldwide Exchange (GO WWX), lists rental property, condos, apartments — even yachts — available under various terms and lengths of time.

Getting There

For getting to your hotel, condo or yacht, check with Travelshopper (GO TWA) or the Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition (GO OAG). Both provide comprehensive information on millions of flights and fares. Fares are displayed from lowest to highest and offer multiple methods for obtaining your ticket.

Travelshopper covers flights on virtually every airline, giving you access to 5 million flight schedules and more than 7 million fares. You can book flights 24 hours a day and relay your choices electronically to any travel agent for automatic ticketing.

Through OAG, you now can make bookings on 2 million direct and con-

F E A T U R E

necting flights for 750 airlines worldwide. According to Joe Bernardo, general marketing manager of electronic publishing for the Official Airline Guides (a print version of OAG is also produced), the online service offers comprehensive information without preference to any airline. Schedules are updated weekly, displayed chronologically by departure time and listed from least to most expensive for easy price comparisons.

"North American fares are updated daily and international fares are updated weekly," says Bernardo. "Limitations and restrictions that may apply on certain fares are also displayed online."

For information on ground transportation planning, including road maps, guides and atlases for the United States, Canada and Mexico, log into TravelVision (GO TRV). For short trips, TravelVision also provides personalized routing services.

Whether your trip is a complicated affair or a simple family vacation, online travel services can help you plan a memorable vacation. Travel Product Manager John Matura offers yet another advantage — your family's fun can start before they leave home.

"Using videotex for travel planning gives the family a chance to make choices together beforehand," Matura says. "This helps avoid misunderstand-

ings once you're away from home and makes for a happier, more sane vacation all around."

Carole Houze Gerber is a contributing editor of Online Today. Her book, Turn Your Kid Into a Computer Genius, was recently published by E.P. Dutton. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007.1215.

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Discover Orlando is a trademark of Zink Publishing Travelshopper, Frequent Flight Bonus and FFB are service marks of TWA or Trans World Airlines Inc. TravelVision is a service mark of General Drafting Co.

Online Travel Guide

Here's a handy reference of GO commands and databases featuring online travel services.

Main Travel Menu
Florida Forum
Discover Orlando
Discover Orlando Quick Fact Index
Walt Disney News
Wonders of Disney
Discover Orlando Reservations Section
Travel Forum
Sun and Sand Vacations
West Coast Travel
Vermont Tourism
National Tourism Citilog
Educational Travel Connection
American Express Advance
Travelshopper
Official Airline Guide
A-Z/ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide
TravelVision
Department of State Advisories
Visa Advisors Service

GO TRAVEL
GO FLORIDA
GO ORLANDO
GO ORL-1828
GO ORL-24 (then enter 8)
GO ORL-286
GO ORLANDO (then enter 8)
GO TRA-12
GO SNS
GO WESTCOAST
GO VERMONT
GO CITIES
GO ETC
GO APX or GO AMEX
GO TWA
GO OAG
GO HOTELS
GO TRV
GO STATE
GO VISA

Travelshopper: A One-Stop Travel Planning Center

Enhancements to TWA Travelshopper put CompuServe subscribers directly in touch with services previously available only to travel professionals. More complete information about discounted airfares, access to movie schedules and two-way messaging capabilities are only a few of the new services available.

Other features include one-way and round-trip fare listings for children and government and military personnel, and two new information-packed sections: "Other Services" and "Nice to Know." Fare listings include 6 million flights for virtually all airlines and are arranged from lowest to highest fare, regardless of airline.

"Other Services," accessed by typing O at the Travelshopper main menu prompt, includes data on air mileage between cities, local times in major cities around the world, currency conversion and exchange rates, worldwide weather information, and mileage award guides

for TWA's Frequent Flight Bonus program. Subscribers can also use "Other Services" for information on decoding airline and city codes shown on flight schedule displays. Knowing how to interpret this information just as travel professionals do will make online travel planning even easier.

Skiers and theatre-lovers will enjoy accessing the "Nice to Know" section, containing information on ski resorts and slope conditions, as well as facts about current theatre engagements and cultural events in more than a dozen cities internationally. "Nice to Know" will also provide you with information on available transportation in these cities. Here, too, you will find inflight movie schedules for TWA flights and facts about procedures for requesting special inflight meals.

The new two-way message board supplements, but does not replace, the one-way online suggestion box. Subscribers

are urged to use the messaging capability to communicate with their travel agent about special services such as meals, handicapped services, car rentals or other requests. An instant car rental service on Travelshopper, presently in the planning stage, will soon supplant the need to use messaging for this purpose.

CompuServe Travel Product Manager John Matura is enthusiastic about the value of these enhancements. "This means a CompuServe subscriber will no longer have to go to multiple sources for travel information," he explains. "Now it's all available online from one database. A subscriber can access and evaluate the information, and then get ticketing and documentation from a travel agent."

To access Travelshopper, type GO TWA at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

— CHG

Taking CompuServe on the Road

In the Spring, young computer users' fancies turn to travel. The snow is melting at last. It's time to pack up your terminal and head out on the open road. But you don't want to leave CompuServe behind. You have work to do online, and your correspondents are counting on

you. How can you log on to the network when you're not at home?

The first thing you'll need, regardless of your destination, is the local access node phone number. Remember that the CompuServe phone number in your city is not going to work in another state. Before you pack up your terminal, visit the phone directory by entering GO PHONE. Numbers are listed by area

code, state and baud rate.

Write down numbers for each place you plan to visit — and if more than one number is listed, write them all down. Remember that numbers with a "C" suffix are less expensive to use than those with a "T" or "D" ending. That "C" denotes a direct CompuServe phone link. Numbers with other suffixes use alternate communications networks to bring you a modem squeal, and those networks add a surcharge for the service.

Some hotels are ready for the information explosion. They provide direct-patch phone cords into which you can plug any modem. Most hotels, however, still insist not only on acoustic cup phones, but even make it impossible to unplug the phone so you can plug in your modem. What to do?

First, take along an acoustic coupler modem — the type with cups that fit right over the phone's mouth- and ear-pieces. Some direct patch modems have acoustic adapters, while others allow you to plug into the acoustic cup of the phone. Be certain how your acoustic modem works before you leave. With each call ringing up on the hotel's bill, you don't want to experiment only after you arrive. Then carefully look over your modem's instructions. It probably will require a new set of software settings. The settings for your direct-patch modem probably won't work.

Finally, if you know where you'll be staying, see if you can find out how the phone system works: some hotels still demand your room number after you place a call. In such an event, you'll have to leave those acoustic cups off until you've spoken to the operator.

If you have a laptop computer, you're all set. On the other hand, those of you who use television adapters probably don't want to carry around a television on your trip — especially because most hotel rooms already have one.

Before you disconnect that television in your room, though, call the front desk and let them know what you're doing. Hotels have developed many safety measures for dealing with theft. Disconnecting the regular antenna in your room may set off an alarm. The next thing you know, your computing session could be interrupted by an impromptu visit from hotel security.

Once you've connected to the network, use your regular User ID number and password. The system will recognize you regardless of location.

Alex Krislov is a free-lance writer from Cleveland. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2130.

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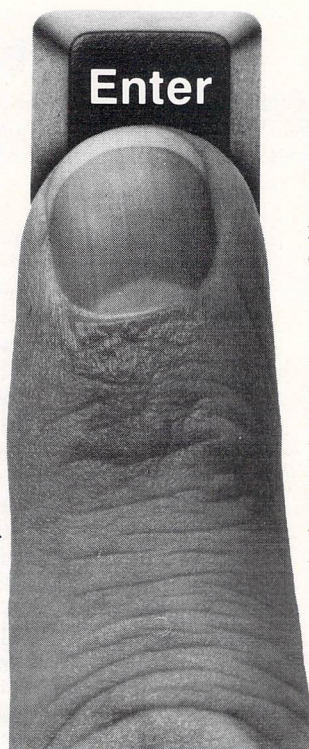
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GO EBB or circle 6 on the Reader Service Form.

Breaking Out of the Mold: Videotex System Delivers Plastics Data

Engineers and processors who make or design products of plastic are no longer limited to printed product catalogs or the recommendations of resin manufacturers' sales representatives for needed information. Today there is another route available — PLASTISERV Information Systems, a videotex service for plastics and related products/services industries. The firm is located in Columbus, Ohio.

With the PLASTISERV videotex system, much of the leg and telephone work can be circumvented as industry artisans search for materials and manufacturers. Because data on the more than 9,000 products from roughly 200 suppliers is updated monthly, customers accessing the database can use current information in making their plans.

In addition to its product guide, accessed by several hundred customers each day, the service provides a guide to product manufacturers and suppliers of related services. Electronic mail capabilities give customers a fast, easy means of communication and of establishing supplier relationships. There is an online message board where users may post questions and information. A Feedback area also allows for interactive communications.

Online newsletters address issues that may impact the plastics industry, including recent rulings by the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission and Environmental Protection Agency. Articles are excerpted from *Plastics World* magazine and other industry publications. Information from professional associations in the plastics industry and an online Wiley & Sons publication catalog with an ordering capability are among other informational resources. The Society of Plastics Industry currently maintains a database on the service and the Society of Plastics Engineers may be adding one in the future.

According to Paulette White, the PLASTISERV system's managing director, the industry videotex service is steadily growing in both volume and diversity, as well as in the number of customers it has attracted since its inception in March 1985. Current subscribers include Allied Corp., Dow Chemical, General Electric, Abbott Laboratories, AMP Inc. and General Motors Corp.

"We've found most people in this industry are receptive to the idea and the benefits that videotex offers in terms of

cost- and time-savings," White explains. "But our service is a departure from the traditional way of getting information, and for this reason, a 'discomfort factor' on the part of potential users sometimes will occur."

"It's our intent to provide whatever assistance is necessary to get customers up and running and using our service to their advantage. These people may have little experience with computers, so we're prepared to work with them, advise them on equipment selection, and help them get over any rough spots they might encounter," she adds.

The PLASTISERV videotex system incorporates CompuServe's telecommunications for wide area access and videotex technology with simple menu structures for ease of use. Specific GO commands provide greater speed for customers familiar with the contents and capabilities of the service. CompuServe database technology and keyword search capabilities are also incorporated.

One way the videotex service has met with success in helping prospective users evaluate its service is by offering a free two-hour demonstration. Prospective users can peruse available information and system capabilities and then

make a decision as to whether they can benefit from adding the PLASTISERV videotex service. White says, "We try to contact those people who are using demonstration access numbers within 48 hours of the time they've been using the system to answer any questions they may have. About half of the prospective users who have tested the system have ended up becoming regular customers."

While the most-accessed areas of the videotex service are its product guide section and electronic mail, White says her group is committed to making the PLASTISERV system a responsive and evolving medium, with a goal of providing an optimum level of customer service.

"We're still in the process of creating the market for our product. We're out making presentations to industry groups and professional organizations. And we're still involved in the process of learning where we can aid our users," says White. User surveys are conducted on a monthly basis to maintain an awareness of users' needs and recommendations. "As a result," adds White, "we've made changes in our product guide section and have added a keyword search capability. We've also added a number of properties our customers have told us they wanted to use in searching for products."

PLASTISERV is a service mark of CompuServe.

— Richard Brownell

For More Business Information

To obtain more information about CompuServe Business Information Service products mentioned in the cover sto-

ry and in the business section of *Online Today*, contact the CompuServe branch sales office nearest you:

Atlanta, Ga.
(404) 231-1440
Boston, Mass.
(617) 267-2772
Chicago, Ill.
(312) 782-5409
Cincinnati, Ohio
(513) 771-8111
Cleveland, Ohio
(216) 241-6818
Columbus, Ohio
(614) 224-3113
Dallas, Texas
(214) 742-2888
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Denver, Colo.
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Detroit, Mich.
(313) 362-1860

Houston, Texas
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Indianapolis, Ind.
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Miami, Fla.
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(212) 486-2440
New York, Financial
(212) 668-0471

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(412) 391-8845
St. Louis, Mo.
(314) 241-0700
San Francisco, Calif.
(415) 777-2737
Santa Clara, Calif.
(408) 727-1468
Toledo, Ohio
(419) 243-2600
Washington, D.C.
(703) 528-3394
Westport, Conn.
(203) 222-1853

Select a Seminar with EdVENT II

CompuServe subscribers now have access to EdVENT II, a comprehensive database of information about educational seminars and training events, provided by Timeplace Inc. of Waltham, Mass.

EdVENT II lists more than 100,000 seminars and meetings from more than 5,000 sponsors, covering more than 40,000 topics. Users can select seminars by subject, state and date. Subscribers can compare costs, topics discussed and number of days each seminar lasts, in effect getting a detailed picture of each meeting. Contacts for registration and discounts or group rates also are available online.

"EdVENT II saves hours of research and provides an array of choices business people would not have otherwise," says Marcia Haddox, CompuServe marketing associate for business products. Users who are not sure what they're looking for can first pick a general subject and then narrow or widen the field of information according to their needs. They can also locate the most specialized seminar topic in seconds.

EdVENT II is updated twice a month, listing seminar information as soon as it is scheduled. Subscribers wanting to combine business with pleasure can locate convenient seminars and make plans accordingly. Searching for locations closer to home and office can save travel time and money. "Instead of shuffling schedules around seminars and meetings, EdVENT II users can pick and choose seminars at their convenience," says Haddox.

Suppose you were interested in attending a seminar on tax planning within the next month. In the EdVENT II database, you would enter the search mode (both beginner and expert modes are offered) and type "tax planning on 4/13 to 5/13" at the Enter Request: prompt. You'll get a message on the screen telling you how many events were found; in this example there are 21 fitting that description. By pressing <CR>, you'll have a display menu of the first eight seminars on that topic.

The title, seminar sponsor, city/state/country, date, cost and number of days are listed for each event on the menu. The events range from a two-day seminar on "Tax Planning for Real Estate Development" to one titled "The Role of the Personal Computer in Tax Planning" in Waltham, Mass. To obtain more information on any of the seminars, select

that seminar's menu choice. The complete seminar descriptions include such information as a content summary, the instructor, complete address and phone number of the sponsor, seminar site and schedule.

It's also possible to narrow a search by one or more states. For example, if you were interested in a seminar on nursing but wanted to stay within driving distance of Cleveland, Ohio, you could type "nursing in OH, MI, IN, PA" at the Enter Request: prompt. In this case, the database listed more than 50

nursing seminars within that region, ranging from "Malpractice and the Nursing Home" to "Advanced Cardiac Life Support."

While EdVENT II contains listings of seminars for virtually every business and profession, you can also search for such topics as microwave cooking, sailing and child development.

EdVENT II has a surcharge of \$15 per hour above CompuServe connect rates. To access EdVENT II, type GO EDV at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

— Sandra Gurvis

Check Citilog for 'After Business' Activities

When the business meeting is over and you have time to do some sightseeing in an unfamiliar city, a new database on CompuServe can help you decide what to visit and tell you how to get there.

The National Tourism Citilog, offered by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, is also useful for planning weekend getaways and vacations. It provides timely, succinct and complete information on 19 of the most popular destination cities in the United States, including Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Houston and Los Angeles. More cities will be added to Citilog in the future.

Using the National Tourism Citilog, CompuServe subscribers can find a comprehensive overview of cultural and entertainment offerings in the city of choice. Information on sporting events, museums, entertainment, places of interest and special events is available in the database. Addresses, telephone numbers, dates, times and ticket prices are included to make travel planning easier.

Information on hotels can be accessed through the A-Z/ABC Worldwide Hotels database (GO HOTELS) or the Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition's section on hotel information (GO OAG). Up-to-date airline fares and schedules can be checked and airline reservations made by accessing the Official Airline Guide or Travelshopper (GO TWA).

"The National Tourism Citilog contains information that is usually hard to find without months of advance preparation," says Toni Linse, a CompuServe associate product marketing specialist. "Through the National Tourism Citilog, subscribers can obtain this information within minutes."

According to Linse, besides being able to get detailed information on cities throughout the United States, "The

traveler can ask questions of tourism executives and officials through online conferences. Conference guests may include mayors, chamber of commerce officials and representatives from city attractions."

For example, an online conference scheduled for this spring features guests talking about the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., an international art and dance festival in Charleston, S.C., from May 23 through June 8. Guest speakers may include the mayor of Charleston, entertainers from the festival and possibly a representative from the group organizing the event.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Charleston festival, which had its origins in 1958 as a festival of two worlds in Spoleto, Italy. This year's festival will celebrate the 75th birthday of its founder and artistic director, Gian Carlo Menotti.

To access the National Tourism Citilog, type GO CITIES from any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

— Robert Loomis

Talk to Us

Online Today has a Feedback area in the *Electronic Edition*. Simply GO OLT-33 from any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service.

ONLINE
T O D A Y
E L E C T R O N I C E D I T I O N

MicroQuote Adds Capability

MicroQuote now offers more than 200 indexes and their look-up symbols for use throughout CompuServe's Market Quotes and Highlights services. Indexes are grouped into the following menus: market and industry indexes; bond rates and yields; exchange rates; market volumes; market advances and declines; and other indicators.

Sources of these indicators include the New York and American stock exchanges, NASDAQ, the weekly Treasury auctions, Standard & Poor's, Dow Jones and Moody's. GO INDICATORS

Lower Cost for Quotes

The surcharges for obtaining current and historical quotations on stocks, bonds, mutual funds, options, commodities and other securities have been simplified.

Quick Quote surcharges, formerly 10 cents per quote while the market is open, are now seven cents. MicroQuote sur-

charges for weekly and monthly quotes have been reduced to the current rate for daily quotes. Commodities quotes, which formerly cost more than stock quotes, are now surcharged at the same rate as stock quotes.

Detailed information on these changes is available on CompuServe's financial menus and will be included in an upcoming issue of *Online Today*. GO QQUOTE for Quick Quote; GO QUOTES for MicroQuote

NCNB Lowers Home Banking Fees

North Carolina subscribers of CompuServe now can bank online for less money, making it easier to explore the benefits of accessing current bank statement information, paying bills by computer and transferring funds between accounts.

NCNB has removed the sign-up fee for NCNB Home Banking. In addition, the monthly fee of \$12 will not be charged until the fourth month of home banking. NCNB will waive this fee for subscribers maintaining a \$20,000 combined balance in NCNB Home Banking accounts. The CompuServe connect time cost for using NCNB Home Banking to access accounts is \$4.25 per hour regardless of the time of day or baud rate.

NCNB Home Banking allows subscribers password-secured access to their account balances. In addition, subscribers can see which checks have cleared, pay bills and transfer funds through a personal computer any time day or night. GO NCNB

USA TODAY Update Adds Report

USA TODAY Update has added Decisionline/Real Estate, an online news summary of the real-estate industry. This report focuses on how interest rates affect everything from housing starts to new home advertising volume. It examines what 1986 has in store for home builders, developers and first-time buyers, in addition to pertinent facts and figures, such as the census report on housing vacancies. To obtain more financial information, read the Banking/Economy and Insurance Decisionlines and the Money Hotline, all from USA TODAY Update. GO DEC for Decisionlines and GO USA for Hotlines

Career Advice Column Online

DR. JOB, a career advice column, is now available on CompuServe. The weekly questions and answers address career and employment-related issues ranging from corporate politics to communications to career decisions. CompuServe subscribers may leave questions in the DR. JOB Feedback area. All information will be kept confidential. Whether you're looking for a job or trying to solve a dilemma at work, you may find help through DR. JOB. GO DRJ

USEN Adds Economic Development Data, Business Plan

The U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network has a new section, "Economic Development," containing information on government agencies and private sector organizations that assist small businesses.

Information in the new data library includes government-backed finance programs, federal procurement contracts and minority assistance programs. The USEN is currently seeking information from nearly every economic development organization in the United States and Canada.

The U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network now offers an online example of a complete business plan written from an outline. A business plan, a key element in raising capital from outside investors, offers a basis for a company's operating plan. The online business plan and outline include all the print commands for proper formatting, page breaks and page numbers. Another version of each is available to be read or printed while online. After downloading the document files, you can revise them to meet your specific needs. GO USEN

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GO OSC
GO FFP
GO HCC

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Find out in the *Electronic Edition of Online Today*. GO OLT from any prompt in CompuServe to get daily updated computer news.

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the most extensive
flight information available.**

Travelshopper speeds you toward any flight schedules you need—a total of 5 million in all. Plus, it gives you elapsed flying times, number of stops

and booking and ticketing rules—so you can always make smart booking decisions.

**More booking power...
the most convenient way
to reserve flights ever.**

No other system beats Travelshopper on flexibility and convenience. You can use it to book flights 24 hours a day—and relay your choices to any travel agent for automatic ticketing. So when you're ready to fly, your tickets will be ready, too. And you can change your reservations at a moment's notice, right at your terminal.

**Become eligible for
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Because Travelshopper is a product of TWA, when you enroll in Travelshopper you'll become a member of TWA's Frequent Flight Bonussm program. Then your flights on TWA

and other participating airlines could add up to free travel...even a free trip around the world!

You'll also receive 3,000 bonus miles toward free travel when you become a Frequent Flight Bonus member. Use Travelshopper to make TWA reservations, and you'll earn 500 bonus miles for each TWA flight you take within 90 days after enrolling.

And remember...you can book flights through Travelshopper on almost any airline in the world...to almost any destination.

Enroll in Travelshopper today.

To enroll in this state-of-the-art reservation system, just enter "GO TWA" on your home computer, or "R TWA" on your business computer. Then you'll be all set to tap the tremendous power of Travelshopper!

**Travelshoppersm**



Greeting Cards Come to Life with Hallmark's Color Mail

It's a gray day. It's a sunny day. It's the kind of day that's just right for a surprise. So you log on to CompuServe, enter EasyPlex from the main menu and — oh, good — Color Mail is waiting.

A moment or two later, there's a bare-legged man in an orange raincoat and boots on your screen. (What's he doing? You'll have to see it to believe it!) Now, the drama unfolds with a wistful dog wagging its tail, a moving cat and a buzzing mosquito all doing their thing. A catchy tune emanates from your computer and some blinking fairy dust twinkles across the screen. Finally, a message: "This one's for you!" It's good for a grin.

Who's it from? This greeting happens to be from an online buddy, a person you know only by name, User ID number, many visits to the same online forum, and now, for a zany sense of humor. But the greeting could have come from your college pal in Albuquerque, your brother-in-law in Cleveland, or someone just up the street. And it's part of something very special . . . Hallmark Color Mail.

Color Mail is a sophisticated software package created by Hallmark, enabling

you to use graphics, sound, color and motion to create an electronic greeting offline on your personal computer. You can leisurely assemble the perfect greeting and, at your convenience, send your message to friends by using CompuServe's EasyPlex as your post office.

Color Mail is currently available for all Apple II series and Commodore 64 and 128 personal computers. The software is available only on CompuServe by typing GO COLORMAIL. Through a get-acquainted offer, the single disk (regularly \$40) is now \$30. And the special PalPak of Color Mail for you and a friend has been reduced to \$50 (regularly \$60). Charges will be added to your monthly CompuServe bill.

What you'll receive is the Color Mail diskette, an illustrated Users Guide, VIDTEX and a VIDTEX Users Guide, a laminated command card, and a list of initial Color Mail libraries and their contents. And if you move quickly to order Color Mail, you'll also get a whimsical Color Mail mug when you order your first new Color Mail library.

Color Mail offers add-on libraries, each containing 10 or so elements. These

are often collected under special thematic groupings, like Mother's Day, Dinosaurs, Halloween or Sports Figures. For a mere \$3.50 to \$5.00 you can download these libraries to your storage diskette and expand your creative options.

With Color Mail, a new realm of creativity is yours. No longer are you doomed to watching type moving monotonously across your monitor. This "electronic greeting factory" is your license to add exciting, personalized touches to your personal computer communications. There are performing words that bounce around the screen, a variety of sound effects ranging from reveille to a Bronx-cheer, all types of backgrounds — all Color Mail "elements" from which you can choose.

When you enter the environment created by Hallmark, prepare for a new, paperless dimension. "It's like a palette that goes beyond color to include motion, music, even time as creative elements," says Mary Vaughn, CompuServe marketing manager. The initial Color Mail diskette includes 10 libraries containing more than 100 elements (characters, songs, etc.) that can be moved and combined in endless variations. You use the "Shopping Cart" feature in the program to collect elements you want to include in your greeting. Then, working through a set of easy-to-use instructions, assemble your greeting in your own unique way. Color Mail monitors how much creative space you have left and, as you add elements to your greeting, tells you what percentage of space has been used.

If something plain and simple is required, the basic, no-frills greeting card with poseys and a few words will take only a few keystrokes. If you feel the urge

to express an emotion that's too serious or silly for direct confrontation, you can doodle your way through libraries and words until just the right sentiment emerges.

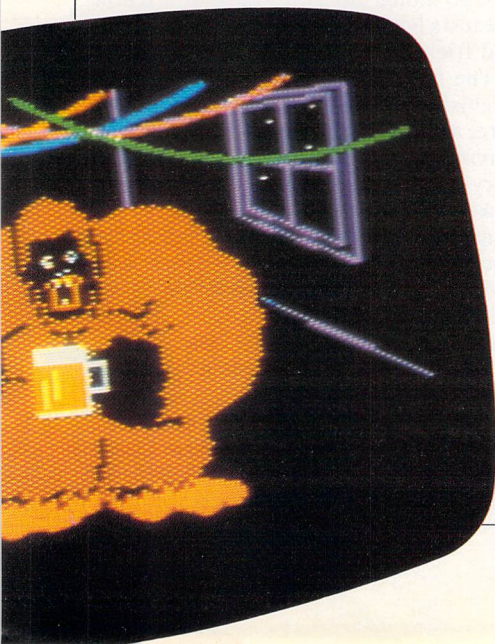
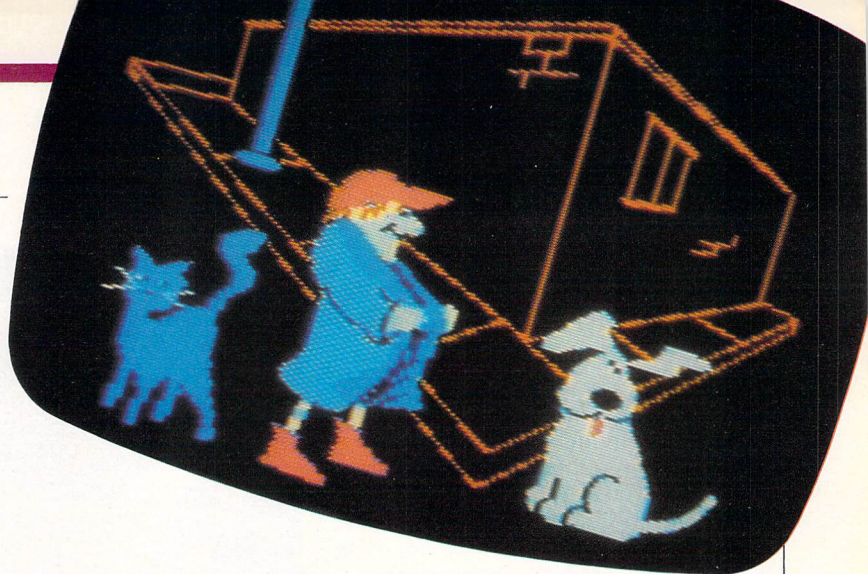
When you are satisfied with your greeting — be it a no-frills type or an elaborate masterpiece — log on to the CompuServe Information Service and, following the simple instructions in your Color Mail Users Guide, "mail" your greeting via EasyPlex.

To get things started, Hallmark is sponsoring a creative meeting ground for Color Mailers — the Color Mail Exchange Forum (GO HALLMARK). Besides meeting other creative geniuses, you can exchange artistic and technical tips, register yourself as a C-Mail receiver and leave hints — such as your birthday, anniversary or any other date worth remembering.

You also can compete for prizes. Simply submit your best effort to the C-Mailer of Merit competition. Hallmark's own Patti Peacock will add reviews of the best greetings in the Color Mail section of the bulletin board. The creator of each week's best entry will receive a free library and the greeting will be installed in the "Garret of Merit," the online greeting card hall of fame. From there, other C-Mailers can download the greeting and send it to a friend or add a personal touch.

To order Color Mail software, type GO COLORMAIL at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

— Yvonne H. Burry



Youthful Pursuits

Online Services Designed with Young Users in Mind

If you're a student, CompuServe has many online services that may interest you. But where do you begin? And what services will fit your needs?

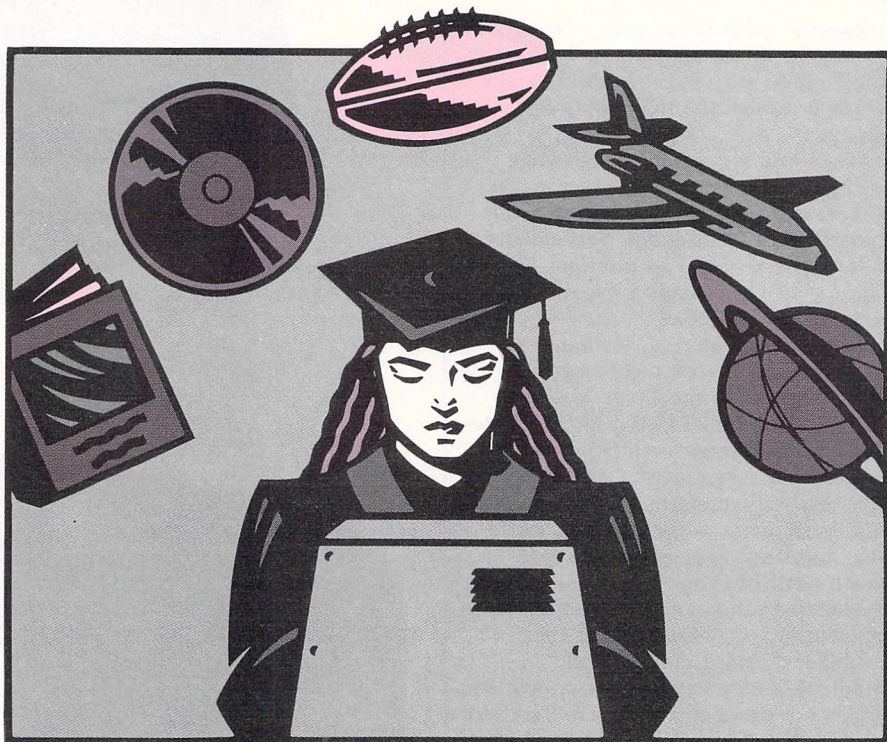
A logical starting place is the Students' Forum (GO STUFO). According to Forum Administrator Dave Winslow, "We want to teach students about telecommunication possibilities, give teachers ideas on how to use computers in the classroom, and provide personal and educational resources for kids." Although much of the information is geared toward middle-schoolers, all ages are welcome in the forum.

The forum is divided into several areas, with user messages placed in the pertinent sections. Subjects in the computer section include troubleshooting, uploading and downloading, and computer processes. Book critiques on topics ranging from animals to science fiction help students select books of interest. Other sections include hobbies, math and vocabulary-builders. The forum also acts as a "publisher" for original compositions and poems.

Young people use the service to exchange thoughts and ideas on personal subjects. "Issues such as living with a single parent and coping with academic pressures can be discussed under near-anonymous conditions," notes Winslow. "This allows for freedom of expression and saves the embarrassment that can sometimes result from the face-to-face exchange of confidences. Students no longer feel so alone with their problems." He cautions, however, that this does not take the place of professional counseling.

Users of the same age from all over the world can be matched up via the Membership Pin-Board. Geographically isolated students find electronic pen-pals and correspond through the forum or via EasyPlex. Students from international locations, including China, Canada and West Germany, participate in the forum.

Young people who use the CompuServe Information Service can find online forums designed for users of specific types of computers. Commodore offers separate forums for education/entertainment, programming and music/graphics (GO CBM). A Commodore online newsletter is also available from the same menu. Apple users will



find an Apple II/Apple III Forum (GO APPLEII, GO APPLEIII) as well as forums for Macintosh users (GO MACUS) and Macintosh software developers (GO MACDEV). In addition, Apples Online (GO AOL) is a database of Apple-related articles, users' group newsletters and product reviews. Atari offers forums for users of 8-bit (GO ATARI8) and 16-bit (GO ATARI16) machines. Antic (GO ANTIC) is an online magazine for Atari computer users.

A college search function is in the works, so high school students can correspond with students at a particular institution. "Along with providing a basic description of each college, this service will give users peer input," adds Winslow.

From this point, young people "GO" just about anywhere on CompuServe. There are many opportunities to learn about travel, trivia and the sciences.

Getting into Science

In the Science/Math Forum (GO SCIENCE), data libraries contain science and mathematics-related software for many types of microcomputers. There are practice problems for college board exams on subjects including math, physics, chemistry and biology. Reminders of upcoming test dates, science fair hints and questions of the week for high school chemistry, physics or biology are posted in the forum. There are science updates on recent discoveries

and advancements. For budding Einsteins, the lab notebook has information about safe experiments and projects.

Educational Games

In The Multiple Choice (GO TMC), along with tests and games for adults, there are features for kids.

Silly Fill-ins, *Sports Rules Quiz* and *Jumbled Words* are among the options. *Silly Fill-ins* sharpens grammar skills, and the *Sports Quiz* is based on researched facts and U.S. professional rules. Other games, such as *Jumbled Words*, have easy, medium and expert levels so you increase your vocabulary as you go along. *So You Think You Know Me* tests how well you really know family and friends.

The trivia games cover such topics as television and movies, science and nature, and animal facts. Users can choose *Trivia Unlimited* (every imaginable category) or stay with a single subject. There is a practice test of 10 questions. "Sudden death" lets you keep playing until you miss five questions; after that, your score is compared to those on the honor roll, and if you do well enough, you become a member. Like the *State Your Capitals* game, the trivia games give a related fact with each answer, regardless of whether you're right or wrong.

Stage II: The Two-Stage Trivia Game takes trivia to a new level by challenging users to discover the common theme

among the answers to six different trivia questions. Through a special arrangement with the authors of the original *Stage II* game, The Multiple Choice offers the complete game on CompuServe but with more than 6,000 different questions than those found in the *Stage II* box game from Milton Bradley.

The Multiple Choice also offers an option that teaches the basics of touch-typing. Consisting of 20 lessons, the *Touch-Type Tutor* allows you to go at your own speed, and lessons can be repeated.

The Whiz Quiz (GO WHIZ) comes from Grolier's Electronic Publishing (also the provider of the Academic American Encyclopedia). *The Whiz Quiz* has been rigorously researched and play-tested. Users get a mini-lesson consisting of an interesting fact before the question, the multiple-choice question itself — with two chances for a correct response — and another bit of information after the answer. Up to four people can play, and the same category can be repeated, since each 30-question game is chosen randomly from a large data pool. A perfect score gets your name posted in the "Whizard Hall of Fame," but even if you miss an answer, the computer responds with encouraging prompts. Regularly updated and changed topics include Literature, Myths & Legends and History.

Studying Abroad

The Educational Travel Connection (GO ETC) helps users prepare for study abroad. The Programs/Directory/Text section offers descriptions of various types of programs available, companies and schools offering them, and how to evaluate and contact these organizations.

"Before You Go" and "While You're There" provide vital information on everything from getting a passport to locating a remote section of the country you're visiting. "Recommended Readings" contains a complete bibliography of information sources.

For a small fee, the database also offers an electronic ETC Online Newsletter with up-to-date information on travel and education and in-depth interviews with industry experts. Travel trivia enthusiasts can participate in the ETC Traveler's Challenge. Along with testing your knowledge of history, people and places, it provides facts that might be useful when you take that trip.

Information on this service is updated constantly. Future plans for ETC include the establishment of a forum to swap ex-

periences and the organization of groups interested in specific places.

Entertaining Hobbies

Among the online entertainment hobby options is RockNet (GO ROCK) for enthusiasts of the wild and crazy world of rock music. Les Tracy, forum administrator, is a music industry professional who has worked in both radio programming and as a disc jockey.

RockNet is divided into two formats. The first consists of a display database providing ratings charts; announcements of concerts, new records, and music videos; industry gossip; news on rock personalities; and opinion polls. The second format is an interactive forum and nightly conferences. Users can swap ideas with each other and with radio and record industry personnel, musicians and disc jockeys. The forum "meets" at 10 p.m. EST for online conferences and sometimes features nationally-known guests. Subscribers can obtain technical answers not normally found in interviews.

Naked Eye Astronomy (GO NIA) studies a different kind of star, providing a foundation for using a telescope. Through this service, you can learn the name and location of constellations during any given season. The stars, sun, moon and planets are discussed in detail, along with celestial potpourri. A calendar of historical events documents developments in astronomy and space exploration.

The Science Fiction/Fantasy Forum (GO SCIFI) allows you to investigate the inner reaches of your imagination. The latest news from the science fiction and fantasy fields, and reviews of new movies and books, including sci-fi comics, are found in this forum. The message board serves as a clearinghouse for up-

dates, views, discussions and communications. The conference area features online interviews with major names in fantasy and science fiction. Informal conferences take place each night (except Saturday) at 10 p.m. EST.

Specialized data libraries cover "Star Trek," "Dr. Who," and Pern/McCaffrey information. Budding science fiction writers have their own data library where they can exchange creative efforts. Other features include several electronic magazines, such as the *APA-29* and the *Tardis Times*.

Come back to earth with ModelNet (GO MODELNET), a service with something for would-be and experienced model builders. Airplanes, cars, boats and rockets are discussed, along with such specialties as model railroading and plastic modeling.

All levels of skill are welcome, from beginners who are just learning to experts developing new techniques. Because each type of modeling is so specific, users within a specialty tend to congregate within that topic, sending messages, troubleshooting and conferencing online.

HamNet (GO HAMNET) is a group dedicated to amateur radio and related subjects, and covers aspects ranging from basic on-air operation to experiments with advanced techniques. Sections include short wave, listening, satellite television and packet radio. You can meet and "converse" with people from all over the country, exchanging programming tips, getting replies on problems or issues, and learning the latest developments in ham radio associations, laws and regulations.

With these services in mind, begin your online explorations.

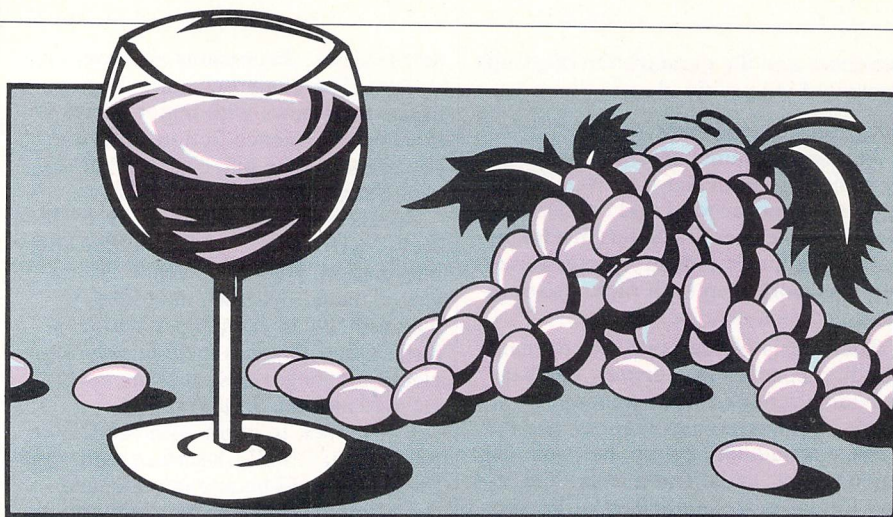
— Sandra Gurvis

Name of Service

Students' Forum
Science/Math Forum
The Multiple Choice
Stage II
The Whiz Quiz
Educational Travel Connection
RockNet
Naked Eye Astronomy
Science Fiction/Fantasy Forum
ModelNet
HamNet

Quick Word

GO STUFO
GO SCIENCE
GO TMC
GO STAGEII
GO WHIZ
GO ETC
GO ROCK
GO NIA
GO SCIFI
GO MODELNET
GO HAMNET



Sampling Vintages via Videotex

Novices and connoisseurs alike can enjoy online wine tastings, get in-depth information on specific wines, exchange suggestions and locate rare vintages through the Bacchus Wine Forum on the CompuServe Information Service.

"All levels of experience are welcome in the Wine Forum," says Linda Thoires, a CompuServe product manager.

Online wine tasting conferences are unique opportunities for electronic commentary. Forum Administrator Jim Kronman selects a specific wine type and year that can be obtained just about anywhere (such as a 1978 Bordeaux red). Users either bring the bottle or their previous tasting notes with them to the online conference in the Wine Forum. "At first, some people were a little hesitant to enter into the discussion," says Thoires. "But they quickly saw that it was a way of exchanging individual impressions with others across the country, and soon, everyone felt comfortable."

In addition to the periodic online wine tastings, other conferences include a weekly "drop-in" general discussion, 9:30-10:30 p.m. EST each Wednesday, and online conversation with other users in the designated subject areas.

The Wine Forum has everyday uses, too. "Not only can you knowledgeably purchase gifts suited to a person's specific tastes, but you can learn about new vintages before they become available in stores," says Thoires.

Kronman provides an online newsletter in the forum, *The Informed Enophile*, containing extensive tasting notes for specific wines and years, consumer news, listings, availability and price information. The newsletter also offers wine-related gift suggestions, ranging from wine accessories to books about

wine. It also evaluates specific brands of wine and includes descriptions of nose and palate reactions as well as overall ratings. Six issues of the newsletter are available online at all times. Since each newsletter is divided into several files, members can read the files online or download information of interest to them.

Other sections of the Wine Forum include general topics, tasting notes, books and publications, questions and answers for the forum administrator, wine cellars and collections, an area for wine professionals, and home winemaking.

A message board, data library, member interest file and conference mode relate to each section. The general interest message board is especially useful for getting up-to-date information on such things as the Hungarian wine scare in which an antifreeze chemical was said to have been found in certain wines.

Wine Forum members also use the message board for locating certain brands of wine in a geographic area. They can get tips regarding a topic, such as how to build a wine cellar or what vintages go best with certain foods.

The Wine Forum's data libraries contain text files, bibliographies and other detailed information on given topics, and can be read online or downloaded. User contributions also are welcome. The member interest file matches up participants who share certain tastes in wine.

To share opinions and information with other wine enthusiasts, type GO WINEFORUM at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

— Sandra Gurvis

What's Inside The Electronic Mall

Find it Fast With the Mall's Index

Looking for a CB radio, children's books, or a cashmere sweater? In the market for a new camera or a cordless telephone? Consult The Electronic Mall's Product Index, the fastest way to find whatever you're looking for. With more than 85 merchants now open, the product index makes online shopping at the Mall easier than ever.

You can access the index from the Mall's top menu. The main menu of the index lists 28 product categories, ranging from apparel/accessories to video equipment. You'll select from such things as computer hardware, software and peripherals; gourmet foods and gifts; and office and business equipment.

When you select a category, you'll get a second menu listing specific products. For example, under the books menu, you'll find many choices, including computer/technical, children's and cookbooks. Again, you make your selection and receive a list of all merchants carrying the item you are looking for. GO commands are provided, allowing you to go directly to the store of your choice. Because new merchants are always opening in the Mall, and because old merchants frequently change their product mix, the index is your most up-to-date source of information on what's available in The Electronic Mall. To access The Mall, type GO MALL at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

What's Going On???

If you want to know what's going on around CompuServe, check into the *Electronic Edition of Online Today*. Here you'll find constantly revised news for and about the CompuServe community. GO OLT from any prompt and choose "CompuServe Update" from the main menu.

ONLINE
T O D A Y
E L E C T R O N I C E D I T I O N

Gift of Time

Online Today offers subscribers the chance to write a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Service.

Your essay should be typed double-spaced. Send it to *Online Today*, CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or by an Email message to 70003,1661. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

Should we use your column, you will receive 10 hours of standard service connect time (a \$60 value) and a byline.



Students Talk Online in Spanish

As a professor of foreign languages, I am often called on to teach a course in Business Spanish. As part of the course, I require students to do some word processing (creating a letter in Spanish to request information on services and products), a database and a spreadsheet.

We have recently installed a modem for our departmental computer and I require all students to witness the sending and receiving of a file through CompuServe. It was not difficult for us to locate Spanish-speaking individuals who agreed to cooperate in the project. These people shared their ideas on such topics as Latin American culture and the current business climate there.

The students not only benefitted from the experience of sending and receiving a file but they also gained valuable perspectives on these topics from people with expertise in these fields.

Howard R. Cohen
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, Va.

PaperChase Delivers Documents

PaperChase, the service providing access to the National Library of Medicine's Medline database, now has a full-text document delivery capability. As a medical reference is displayed in PaperChase, you will be able to request a photocopy of the article by typing "C" for "copy." The article will be mailed to you, in most cases, within one business day, at a charge of \$6 per article. Payments may be made by MasterCard, VISA or American Express. GO PCH

Games Forums Reorganize

CompuServe's GameSIG and Multi-Player GameSIG have changed names, reorganized and expanded coverage of game topics.

GameSIG is now known as the Gamers' Forum. It provides more coverage of single-player computer games and offers additional help features for new game players. GO GAMERS

The Multi-Player GameSIG is now called the Multi-Player Games Forum. It has expanded to include separate message board subtopics for the training of new players, and discussion of team games and technical topics. GO MPGAMES

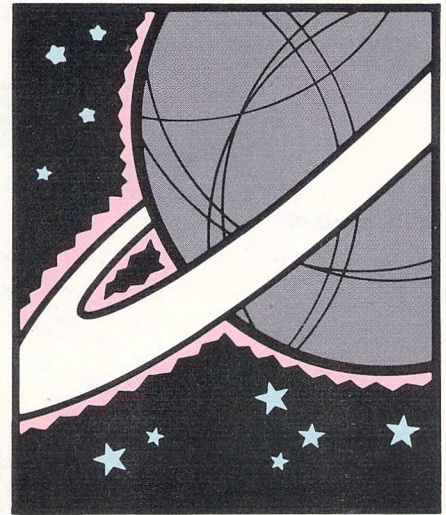
EMI Aerodata Adds Pro-Plan

Pilots who register their aircraft performance data with EMI Aerodata on CompuServe can use new flight-planning features. Pilot-directed profile optimization enables you to scan the wind-corrected total time and fuel burn for a given flight up to four flight levels in advance. Then, you may select the altitude for best time, best fuel or optimum combination. Pilots registering for Pro-Plan also may use expert mode data entry to enter all the information for the flight plan on a single command line. GO EMI-5

YGI! Adjusts Prize Points

A new prize point structure for *You Guessed It!* is available. *You Guessed It!*, produced by Creative CompuCasting Co., is an interactive, multi-player trivia game in which players meet online and compete for prizes.

Winning team players who play an entire game now will receive six points. Losing team players still will receive two points if they complete the game. Losing duel players now will receive one point if they play an entire game. Duel winners still will receive three points for a complete game. GO YGI



MegaWars III Adds EasyPlex

MegaWars III players now can send EasyPlex messages to their teammates while playing the game. Each message sent will be transmitted to all members of the team. As in regular EasyPlex messages, there will be a surcharge of 10 cents per copy for multiple copies. GO MEGA3

Tandy Newsletter Now Online

The Tandy Newsletter offers Tandy computer users a way to stay abreast of CompuServe Information Service activities relating to Tandy products as well as current developments within Tandy Corp. The newsletter is updated regularly with information ranging from conference announcements to technical product information on releases and upgrades. A Feedback section provides a link to Tandy's customer service department in Fort Worth, Texas. GO TANDY

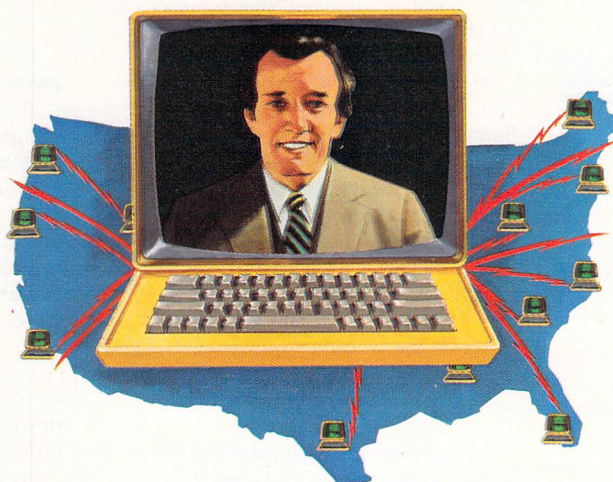
Atari VIDTEX Available

Atari VIDTEX, CompuServe's telecommunications package for Atari computers, is now available through the online ordering area of the CompuServe Information Service. Atari VIDTEX is compatible with all Atari 8-bit machines with at least 48K (64K is recommended) and Atari direct connect modems or RS-232 modems when using the Atari 850 interface.

Other features of Atari VIDTEX include CompuServe's B Protocol for error-free file transfers, high-resolution graphics for viewing online pictures, capture buffer access and full print capabilities.

The cost of Atari VIDTEX is \$39.95. GO ORDER

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We believe that the Electronic University provides the most meaningful reason for having a computer in your home. Education and learning have always supplied the foundation for individual growth, values and accomplishments. Now the personal computer, together with the Electronic University, delivers the most convenient, flexible new opportunity for all members of your family to continue their education—at whatever level they choose.

For more information on courses and programs call toll free:

800-22LEARN (outside California)

800-44LEARN (in California)

THE ELECTRONIC UNIVERSITY NETWORK
505 Beach Street • San Francisco, California 94133 • 415/928-2800



Answers From Customer Service

Q: If I am in a humorous mood, what games on CompuServe will give me a good laugh?

A: *You Guessed It!* will make you chuckle. Type GO YGI at any prompt on CompuServe to play. Or, you can read humorous trivia, play games, take quizzes and review reader survey polls in *The National Satirist* (GO KCS). If you would like to compare jokes or play games, type GO WITSIG and join the Wit Special Interest Group.

Q: Is there an extra charge for playing *You Guessed It!*?

A: Yes, there is a \$3 per hour surcharge, but it is in effect only while you are in the game itself.

Q: I'm lost in *Adventure*. How do I get started?

A: You can get help while you are in the game. Type HELP at any prompt for some hints. If you need additional assistance, try The Gamers' Forum data libraries and message boards. You'll find hints and game "walkthrus" for online adventure games (such as the *Scott Adams* games) and offline software adventure games. Type GO GAMERS at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Q: How do I build up my ship in *MegaWars III*?

A: The bigger your ship, the more fighters and troops you can carry to attack planets. Also, with a bigger ship you can carry more weapons and heavier shielding. You can build up your ship by buying hull units, either from an imperial base or from one of your own planets (if it has developed to the point where it can build hull-units). You also can add to your ship if you are a member of a team and stop at a team member's huller. You can get the money to buy the hull-units by taxing your own colonies or by using the money you get when you take over an opponent's colony in combat.

Q: Where can I get help for the games?

A: Instructions for each game are available online at the beginning of the game and sometimes throughout the game itself. CompuServe also offers detailed manuals for *MegaWars I*, *MegaWars III* and other games.

The CompuServe Games Guide includes detailed instructions for more than 40 games and comes complete with a Games Highlight booklet.

To order these manuals, type GO ORDER at any prompt.

In addition, The Gamers' Forum and the Multi-Player Games Forum are good sources of help. Just leave your question on one of the forum message boards and it will be answered. Type GO GAMERS or GO MPGAMES at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Q: I am interested in playing trivia games. Where can I find them?

A: CompuServe offers several trivia games. You can play *Stage II*, *ShowbizQuiz*, *The Whiz Quiz*, *You Guessed It!*, *Guess the Animal*, *The Traveler's Challenge* and others. To read more about these games and learn how to play them, type GO GAM-11 at any prompt.

Q: Can I get a list of all the games available on CompuServe?

A: You can get a list of all the games offered on CompuServe by typing FIND GAMES at any prompt.

Q: I cannot exit out of *MegaWars III* while I am in flight. It lets me exit only while I'm orbiting. Is there any other way to exit the game?

A: You must be in orbit around a planet to end a *MegaWars III* session. Otherwise, players could simply disappear or reappear at will; this would detract from the challenge and realism the game strives to create. It might also allow an easy "out" for a player involved in combat to escape pursuit as well as provide a means of eliminating long and costly (in game terms) galactic travel.

There is one method of ending the session in mid-flight, but there is a penalty involved: A player may self-destruct his or her ship. If you choose to self-destruct, a death is recorded on your record, and your ship is rebuilt at an imperial base as a scout ship regardless of your previous ship status.

Q: What can I do with the points I have won by playing *You Guessed It!*?

A: You can cash in your points for prizes. But please note that CompuServe

maintains point totals only for players who remain active. In order to continue accumulating prize points, you must play *You Guessed It!* at least once every 90 days.

Q: Why don't you offer arcade-style games?

A: Due to the large variety of microcomputers used by CompuServe subscribers, CompuServe does not provide arcade-style graphics. Each microcomputer utilizes different memory locations and different commands for graphic interpretation, thus prohibiting us from presenting graphics similar to those in arcade games.

Q: If I am playing a game on CompuServe, can I save that game and download it to my computer to play it offline?

A: The games you will find from the Games Menu (GO GAMES) are interactive games between you and the CompuServe computer. While the games cannot be downloaded, you can often save your position in the more complex games to play later. You can also download public domain software games in areas like the online forums, Public Access and CompuServe's software exchange.

Q: I enjoyed the *Dungeons of Kesmai* game. Are there currently, or will there soon be, similar games offered on CompuServe?

A: *The Island of Kesmai*, another great fantasy role-playing game, is now live on CompuServe. It can be accessed by typing GO ISLAND at any prompt. It is even more challenging than *Dungeons of Kesmai*.

Q: I own a planet in *MegaWars III* that has a habitation of 89. My planet population is only 15,000. Another planet in the same system has a habitation of 29 and a population of 65,000. Why is the population so much larger on the planet with the lower habitation?

A: The population of a planet increases at a rate determined by several factors in the planetary management area of the game. The fastest way to increase the population is to change the job assignments so that most people are employed in construction. Construction builds houses, and houses are necessary for population growth. You must monitor your planet during this growth period or you could end up with a large unemployment rate — often leading to riots.

HIGHLIGHTS

**BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF MANY SERVICES AVAILABLE
ON THE COMPUERVE INFORMATION SERVICE INCLUDING
A COMPLETE SUBJECT INDEX.**

COMMANDS

Contained in this volume of Highlights is information current as of March 1986

Highlights, published by *Online Today* magazine, is your handy digest of CompuServe Information Service products and services.

Highlights contains the complete CompuServe Information Service subject index, including the "GO" page locations to find online items easily.

Also included are brief descriptions of many subjects and services available on CompuServe. Different subject items and services will be featured in each issue, so we suggest you keep successive issues of Highlights as handy references.

The following is a list of commands for using the CompuServe Information Service. Simply type the letter or letters preceding the definitions shown here and then press the (ENTER) or CARRIAGE RETURN key.

B — BACKWARD

this command will back you up and redisplay the page preceding the one you are reading.

F — FORWARD

this will take you FORWARD one page. It displays the next page in a series of pages. Pressing the (ENTER) or CARRIAGE RETURN key once will also display the next screen of information.

G — GO

the GO command will take you directly to a page specified by an information provider code and page number, for example, GO TRS-1. By typing GO, and the information provider code (no page number), you will be taken to the first page of the information provider area.

H — HELP

you will receive instructions after typing in HELP and pressing the (ENTER) or CARRIAGE RETURN key.

M — MENU

this means previous MENU. This command will take you to the menu page which directed you to the page you are currently reading.

N — NEXT

this command will take you to the NEXT topic listed on the menu on which you made

your current topic choice. If you chose topic 5 on the most recent menu, then NEXT will display topic 6.

OFF

this command will disconnect you from CompuServe immediately after it is typed in and followed by an (ENTER) or CARRIAGE RETURN.

P — PREVIOUS

this command will take you to the PREVIOUS topic listed on the menu located before the one you chose to read. If you chose topic 5 on the most recent menu, then PREVIOUS will display topic 4.

S — SCROLL

this command will allow you to continuously print pages to your screen until the last page in a series is displayed. If you are at a menu page, typing S followed by the number which corresponds with the menu topic, will continuously print the pages related to that topic to your screen.

T — TOP

the TOP menu page. This takes you directly to the first page of the CompuServe database (TOP).

USER INFORMATION

GO HELP

Billing: Your Charges, Rates Options, Making Changes

provides you with information about your current and past charges for purchases and services used, displays the current rates for using the CompuServe Information Service, and allows you to change the existing information about your current credit card, or to enter another credit card choice.
GO BILLING

Change Terminal Settings

shows you how to specify terminal type, length of line, width of line, point of entry at

log on, EasyPlex waiting notice at log on, etc. You can make the default settings permanent or temporary to that session.
GO TERMINAL

Change Your Password

prompts you for your current password and then asks for your new choice of password. You are immediately notified when the password is changed successfully.
GO PASSWORD

Command Summary and Usage Tips

displays a brief description of the commands which can be used in the Videotex area.
GO COMMAND

Feedback to CompuServe

briefly describes how to use the Feedback service and then allows you to send comments, suggestions or questions to the Customer Service staff, etc. Your Feedback is read and responded to via EasyPlex to the same User ID which entered the message. Feedback responses are usually made within 48 hours after receipt by Customer Service. Your connect time is free while using this service, in the form of a credit given for the time you use Feedback. It is recommended that you use Feedback to communicate with the CompuServe Information Service.
GO FEEDBACK

H I G H L I G H T S

Electronic Bounce Back

makes it easy for you to request free information from advertisers in *Online Today* magazine. Insert your name, address and names of any advertisers from whom you'd like information.
GO EBB

Log on Instructions & Numbers

searches and displays the most up-to-date list of telephone access numbers by the state or area code you select. Pending and recent

changes are available as well as a complete list by baud rate.
GO LOGON

Online Today Electronic Edition

an electronic extension of *Online Today* magazine. Contains daily-updated computer and videotex industry news; reviews of hardware, software and books; new product announcements; and a direct link to *Online Today* advertisers.
GO ONLINE

What's New

offers weekly announcements of new and enhanced features available from the CompuServe Information Service.
GO NEW

Subject Index

displays the entire Subject Index or searches and displays features by key word entry. It also lists the IP code/page reference for each item so you can use the G (GO) command to directly access the item of your choice.
GO INDEX

S U B J E C T I N D E X

The CompuServe Information Service subject index is updated constantly. For the most recent list of subjects and services, type GO INDEX.

This subject index is current as of March 1986.

A

ABC Hotels GO HOTELS
AAMSI Communications GO AAMSI
AAMSI Newsletter GO AAM-1
ADCIS Forum GO ADCIS
AOPA Forum GO AOPA
AP Datastream GO SPD-1005
AP Videotex, Business ... GO APV
AP Videotex, Entertain ... GO APV
AP Videotex, Politics ... GO APV
AP Videotex, Weather ... GO APV
AP Videotex, World News ... GO APV
ASI Flight Operations .. GO ASI-11
ASI Monitor GO ASI-10
ASI Service Difficulty ... GO ASI-12
Academic Amer. Ency ... GO AAE
Access Phone Nos GO PHONE
Adult Education:
The College Board GO TCB
Advertisers, Online Today:
Electronic Bounce Back ... GO EBB
Advertising:
Nat'l. Bulletin Board ... GO BULLET
The Electronic Mall GO MALL
Advice:
Dr. Job GO DRJ
Government Publications ... GO GPO
Human Sexuality GO HSX
Advisories, Travel:
Department of State ... GO STATE
Agri-Commodities GO ACI
Airplanes (see Aviation)
American Express (R) ADVANCE ... GO AXP

Annual Reports:
Disclosure II © GO DIS
Value Line Financials ... GO VLINE
Amiga Forum ... GO AMIGAForum
Antic Magazine GO ANTIC
Apple II & III User Group GO APPLEII, GO APPLEIII
Apple Mac Users Forum GO MACUS
Apple Mac Developers' Forum GO MACDEV
Apples Online GO AOL
Ashton Tate Forum GO ASHFORUM
Ashton Tate Support Library GO ASHTON
Ask Mr. Fed Forum ... GO MMS-20
Astrology GO ASTROLOGY
Astronomy:
Naked Eye Astronomy ... GO NIA
Atari 8 Bit Forum GO PCS-132
Atari 16 Bit Forum GO PCS-58
Atari Developers Forum GO ATARIDEV

Atlases:
TravelVision GO TRV
Attorneys:
Legal Forum GO LAWSIG
Autos, Buying:
New Car Showroom GO ATO
STL Post-Disp., Autos ... GO SPD
Aviation:
AOPA Forum GO AOPA
ASI Monitor GO ASI-10
Aviation Forum GO AVSIG
Aviation Safety Institute ... GO ASI
EMI Flight Plans GO EMI
EMI Radar Map GO EMI-8
Flight Operations GO ASI-11
Flight Planning/Briefings ... GO EMI
Model Aviation GO MODELNET
Official Airline Guide GO OAG
Service Difficulty Reports ... GO ASI-12
VIDTEX Weather Maps ... GO MAPS
Weather Reports/Forecasts ... GO AWX

B

Baffle Word Game GO BAFFLE
Banking Services GO BANK
Banks:
Bank One GO BOC
Huntington National Bank ... GO HNB
NCNB National Bank GO NCB
PSFS - Philadelphia GO PSFS
Shawmut Bank of Boston ... GO SHW
Southeast Bank, Miami ... GO SEB
United American Bank, Memphis ... GO UAB
Banshi GO BANSHI
Billing:
Monthly Charges GO BILLING
Biorhythms GO BIORHYTHMS
Blackjack GO MPBLACK
Bonds (see Investments)
Borland Int'l Forum ... GO BORLAND
Broadcast Professional Forum GO BPFORUM

Brokerage:
Max Ule's Tickerscreen GO TKR
Quick & Reilly GO QWK
Rapaport Diamond Broker ... GO RDC
Unified Management GO UMC
Bulletin Board, Nat'l ... GO BULLET
Business News:
AP Videotex, Business ... GO APV
CP Business Info Wire GO BIW
Decisionline Money GO DEC
Decisionline Real Estate ... GO DEC
Decisionline Weather GO DEC
The Business Wire GO TBW
Wash. Post, Business ... GO TWP-12

C

CB Interest Group SIG ... GO CBIG
CB Society GO CUP
CP Business Info Wire GO BIW
CP/M Users Group SIG GO CPMSIG
Canadian News:
CP Business Info Wire GO BIW
Cars:
Auto Racing Forum GO RIS

New Car Showroom GO ATO
CastleQuest GO CQUEST
Changing Password GO PASSWORD
Changing Terminal Type ... GO PROFILE
Charges-to-Date:
Monthly Charges GO BILLING
Children's Games GO TMC-27
Citizen's Band Simulator ... GO CB-10
Classic Quotes GO TMC-7
Clipping GO ENS
College Planning:
The College Board GO TCB
College Press Service GO CPS
Color Computer SIG GO COCO
Color Graphics GO CIS-91
Command Level:
Personal File Area GO FILES
Command Summary GO COMMAND

Commodities .. GO COMMODITIES
Commodity Markets:
Agri Commodities GO ACI
News-A-Tron GO NAT
Quotes GO CPRICE
Symbol lookup GO CSYMBOL
Commodore
Education/Entertainment Forum ... GO PCS-156
Commodore Music/Graphics
Forum GO PCS-155
Commodore Newsletter ... GO CBM
Commodore Programming Forum ... GO PCS-116
Commodore Forum . GO CBM-2000
Comp-u-store GO CUS

Company Forecasts:
I/B/E/S Earnings Estimates © GO IBES
Standard & Poor's GO S&P
Value Line Projections GO EARNINGS
Company Information:
Disclosure II GO DIS
Screening GO SCREEN
Standard & Poor's GO S&P
Value Line GO VLINE
Comparison Shopping, Autos:
New Car Showroom GO ATO
CompuServe Account Balance:
Monthly Charges GO BILLING
CompuServe Rates GO BILLING
CompuServe Logon Inst. ... GO LOG
CompuServe's softex ... GO SOFTEX
Computer Art SIG GO ARTSIG
Computer Club Forum ... GO CLUB
Computer Lang. Magazine GO CLM
Computer Language Forum GO CLMFORUM
Computer Sports World .. GO CSW
Computing Tutorials ... GO PCS-121
Consumer Electronics Forum GO CEFORUM

Cooking:
Electronic Gourmet GO HMS
Cupcake's Column:
CB Society GO CUP

D

Daily Comment Newsletter. GO DC

DEC PC Forum GO DECPC
Decisionline:
USA TODAY Update Decisionline ... GO DEC
DEFAULT Parameters:
Changing Terminal Type. GO PROFILE
Directory of Public Officials GO DPO
Disclosure II © GO DIS
DISCOVER ORLANDO GO ORLANDO
DataPac Logon Instruct GO LOG-41
Department of State ... GO STATE
Diamonds:
Rapaport Diamond Broker... GO RDC
Digital Research Forum ... GO DRFORUM
Digital Research Inc. GO DRI
Directory of Public Officials GO DPO

Directory of Users:
User Directory GO DIRECTORY
Disabilities Forum.. GO DISFORUM
Disk Area:
Personal File Area GO FILES
Documentation Ordering:
Product Ordering GO ORDER
Donoghue Organization .. GO DON
Download Company Data GO IQINT
Download Pricing Data. GO MOINT
Dr. Dobb's Journal GO DDJ
Dr. Dobb's Journal Forum ... GO DDJFORUM
Dr. Job GO DRJ

E

EMI Flight Planning GO EMI
EPIE Database GO EPIE
EPIE Forum GO EPIEFORUM
Earnings Estimates (see Company Forecasts)
EasyPlex GO EASY
Economic Outlooks:
Money Market Services... GO MMS
MMS/Daily Comment GO DC
MMS/Fedwatch GO FW
Editorials:
Wash. Post, Editorials ... GO TWP
Educators' Forum GO HOM-137
Educ. Research Forum. GO HOM-28
Education:
ADCIS Forum GO ADCIS
Academic Amer. Ency GO AAE
College Press Service GO CPS
Disabilities Forum ... GO DISFORUM
EPIE Database GO EPIE
Educators' Forum GO HOM-137
Educational Travel Connection GO ETC
EdVENTII GO EDV
Foreign Lang. Educ. Forum GO FLEFO
Handicapped Users' Database GO HANDICAPPED
Logo Forum GO LOGOFORUM
Science/Math Educ. Forum GO EDU-13
Students' Forum GO STUFO

The College Board GO TCB
 The Multiple Choice GO TMC
 The Whiz Quiz GO WHIZ
Educ. Research Forum. GO HOM-28
EdVENTII. GO EDV
Electronic Bounce Back ... GO EBB
Electronic Gamers Forum

GO GAMERS
Electronic Gourmet GO HMS
Electronic Mail:
 EasyPlex GO EASY

Employment Opportunities:
 StL Post-Disp., Jobs GO SPD
Encyclopedia:
 Academic Amer. Ency GO AAE

Entertainment:
 Hollywood Hotline GO HHL
 Las Vegas Hotline GO VEGAS
 Movie Reviewettes GO MOVIES
 Music Forum GO MUSICFORUM
 National Tourism Citilog GO CITIES
 RockNet GO ROCK
 Science Fiction GO SCI-FI
 Showbizquiz GO SHOWBIZ
 The National Satirist GO KCS
 The Whiz Quiz GO WHIZ
 WITSIG GO WITSIG

Entertainment News:
 AP Videotex, Entertain GO APV
 Hollywood Hotline GO HHL
 Las Vegas Hotline GO VEGAS
EpsOnline GO EPSON
Executive News Service © GO ENS

F

Family Computing GO FAM
Family Computing Forum GO FAMFORUM

Federal Gov't News:
 Wash. Post, Gov't News GO TWP
Fed. Registry Highlights. GO GPO

Federal Reserve:
 Ask Mr. Fed Forum GO MMS-20
 Fedwatch Newsletter GO MMS

Feedback to CompuServe GO FEED
Financial News (see Business News)
Financial Statements:

Disclosure II GO DIS
 Value Line GO VLINE
Firenet GO FIRENET

Flight Planning:
 EMI Flight Plans/Briefings GO EMI
 Weather Reports/Forecasts GO AWX

Florida Forum GO FLORIDA
Flying (see Aviation)
Football GO FOOTBALL

Forecasts, Company GO COMPANY FORECASTS
Forecasts, Economic GO ECONOMIC OUTLOOKS

Forecasts, Weather:
 NOAA Weather Wire GO WEA

Foreign Exchange Rates (see Investments)
Foreign Lang. Educ. Forum

GO FLEFO
Forth Forum/Creative Solutions. GO FORTH

Forums:
 ADCIS Forum GO ADCIS
 AOPA Forum GO AOPA

Amiga Forum GO AMIGAForum
 Apple II & III User Group GO APPLEII
 GO APPLEIII

Apple Mac Users Forum GO MACUS
 Apple Mac Developers' Forum GO MACDEV

Ashton Tate Forum GO ASHFORUM
 Atari 8 Bit Forum GO PCS-132
 Atari 16 Bit Forum GO PCS-58

Atari Developers Forum GO ATARIDEV
 Auto Racing Forum GO RIS
 Aviation SIG (AVSIG) GO AVSIG

Bacchus Wine Forum GO WINEFORUM
 Borland Forum GO BORLAND
 Broadcast Professional Forum GO BPFORUM

CB Interest Group SIG GO CBSIG
 CP/M Users Group SIG GO CPMSIG
 Color Computer SIG GO COCO

Commodore Education/Entertainment Forum GO PCS-156
 Commodore Forum GO CBM-2000
 Commodore Music/Graphics Forum GO PCS-155

Commodore Programming Forum GO PCS-116
 Computer Art SIG GO ARTSIG
 Computer Club Forum GO CLUB

Computer Language Forum GO CLMFORUM
 Consumer Electronics Forum GO CEFORUM
 DEC PC Forum GO DECPC

Digital Research Forum GO DRFORUM
 Disabilities Forum GO DISFORUM
 Dr. Dobb's Journal Forum GO DDJFORUM

EPIE Forum GO EPIEFORUM
 Educators' Forum GO HOM-137
 Educ. Research Forum GO HOM-28

Electronic Gamers Forum GO GAMERS
 EpsOnline GO EPSON
 Family Computing Forum GO FAMFORUM

Firenet GO FIRENET
 Florida Forum GO FLORIDA
 Foreign Lang. Educ. Forum GO FLEFO

Forth Forum/Creative Solutions GO FORTH
 Good Earth Forum GO GOODEARTH
 HamNet Forum GO HAMNET

Health Forum GO HCM-660
 Heath User Group SIG. GO HCM-660
 Hewlett-Packard Forum GO HP

Human Sexuality GO HSX-18
 IBM Novice Forum GO IBMNOVICE
 IBM PCjr Forum GO IBMJR

IBM PC SIG GO IBMSIG
 INDHYGIENE Forum GO INDHYGIENE
 Interex/H-P Forum GO INTEREX

Investors' Forum GO MMM-18
 Jazz Forum GO LOTUS
 Journalism Forum GO JFORUM

Kaypro Users Forum GO KAYPRO
 LDOS/TRS-DOS GO LDOS
 Legal Forum GO LAWSIG

Literary Forum GO LITFORUM
 Logical Systems SIG GO PCS-49
 Lotus 1-2-3 Forum GO LOTUS

MEDSIG GO MEDSIG
 MUSUS SIG GO MUSUS
 MicroPro Forum GO MICROPRO

Microsoft SIG GO MSOFT
 Military Veterans Services GO VET
 Model Aviation Forum GO MODELNET

Multi-Player Games Forum GO MPGAMES
 Music Forum GO MUSICFORUM
 Natl. Issues Forum GO ISSUESFORUM

OB-GYN Forum GO OBG-426
 OP-NET SIG GO OPNET
 Orch-90 SIG GO PCS-15

Outdoor Forum GO OUTDOORFORUM
 PDP-11 Forum GO PCS-53
 PR and Marketing Forum GO PRSIG

Pascal SIG GO MUSUS
 Political Forum GO POLITICS
 Programmer's SIG GO PROGSIG

Religion Forum GO RELIGION
 RockNet GO ROCK
 Science/Math Educ. Forum GO EDU-13

SCI-FI Forum GO SCI-FI
 Space SIG GO SPACEFORUM
 Sports Forum GO HOM-110

Students' Forum GO STUFO
 Symphony Forum GO LOTUS
 TRS-80 Color Computer Forum GO COCO

TRS-80 Prof. Forum GO PCS-21
 TRS-80 Model 100 SIG GO PCS-154
 TeleComm SIG GO TELECOMM

Texas Instruments Forum GO TIFORUM
 Travel SIG GO TRAVISIG

U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network GO USEN
 VAX SIG GO VAXSIG
 Whole Earth Software SIG GO WEC

WITSIG GO WITSIG
 Work-at-Home Forum GO WORK
 The World of Lotus GO LOTUS

Writers and Editors SIG. GO WESIG
Funds, Mutual:
 No Load Directory GO NOLOAD

Prices/Performance (see Investments)

G

Games:
 Animal Game GO ANIMAL
 Astrology Calculator GO ASTROLOGY

Baffle Word Game GO BAFFLE
 Banshi GO BANSHI
 Biorhythms GO BIORHYTHMS

BlackDragon GO BLACKDRAGON
 Blackjack GO MPBLACK
 CastleQuest GO CQUEST

Children's Games GO TMC-27
 Classic Quotes GO TMC-7
 Command Decision GO COMDEC

Football GO FOOTBALL
 Golf GO GOLF
 Hangman GO HANGMAN

MegaWars I GO MEGAI
 MegaWars III GO MEGAIII
 New Adventure GO NEWADVENTURE

Original Adventure GO ORADVENTURE
 Scott Adams' Games GO ADAMS
 Scramble GO SCRAMBLE

SeaWar GO SEAWAR
 Showbizquiz GO SHOWBIZ
 Space War GO SPACEWAR

State Capital Quiz GO TMC-44
 Trivia Test GO TMC
 The Whiz Quiz GO WHIZ

You Guessed It! GO YGI
Golf GO GOLF
Good Earth Forum GO GOODEARTH

Government Publications. GO GPO
Graphics:
 CB Pictures GO CB-58

Color Graphics GO CIS-91
 EMI Radar Map GO EMI-8
 FBI 10 Most Wanted GO FBI

VIDTEX Weather Maps GO MAPS
Guides:
 Incorporating Guide GO INC

Pan Am Travel Guide GO PANAM
 Product Ordering GO ORDER

H

Halley's Comet Database/Promo ... GO HALLEY
HamNet Forum GO HAMNET
Handicapped Users' Database GO HANDICAPPED

Hangman GO HANGMAN
Healthcom GO HCM
HealthNet GO HNT
Heath User Group SIG GO HCM-660

Help:
 Command Summary GO COMMAND
 Hewlett-Packard Forum GO HP

Historical Pricing. GO INVESTMENTS
Hollywood Hotline GO HOLLYWOOD

Home Shopping:
 Comp-u-store GO CUS
 New Car Showroom GO ATO

The Electronic Mall GO MALL
Hotline:
 USA TODAY Update Hotline. GO USA

HUG:
 Heath User Group SIG. GO HCM-660
Human Sexuality GO HSX

Humor:
 The National Satirist GO KCS
 WITSIG GO WITSIG

Huntington National Bank GO HNB

I

I/B/E/S Earnings Estimates ® GO EARNINGS
IBM Novice Forum . GO IBMNOVICE

IBM PC Forum GO IBMSIG
IBM PCjr Forum GO IBMJR
IIAA GO INS

Incue GO INCUE
INTEREX GO PCS-28
Incorporating Guide GO INC

Index GO IND
Index Oscillators:
 News-A-Tron GO NAT

Indices (see Investments)
Ind. Hygiene Forum GO INDHYGIENE

Insurance, Home-Auto:
 IIAA GO INS

Intelligence Test GO TMC-32
Interex/Hewlett-Packard Users Group GO INTEREX
Internal Revenue Service .. GO IRS

Investments:
 Agri Commodities Analysis GO ACI
 Analysis Tools GO ANALYSIS

Bond Interest GO DIVIDENDS
 Bonds Listing GO BONDS
 Commodities GO COMMODITIES

Company Screening GO COSCREEN
 Current Day Quotes GO QQUOTE
 Disclosure II GO DIS

Dividends GO DIVIDENDS
 Donoghue Organization GO DON
 Downloading GO INTERFACE

Historical Pricing GO INVESTMENTS
 Historical Quote Sheet GO QSHEET
 Index Symbols GO INDICATORS

Institutional Brokers Estimate System GO IBES
 Issue Pricing Summary GO PRISUM
 Issue Screening GO SCREEN

Market Highlights GO MARKET
 Max Ule's Tickerscreen GO TKR
 MicroQuote II GO MQQUOTE

Mutual Fund Distributions GO DIVIDENDS
 News-A-Tron Market Reports GO NAT

Options Profile GO OPRATE
 Portfolio Valuation GO PORT
 Price/Volume Graph GO TREND

Quick Quote GO QQUOTE
 Quick Way Brokerage GO QWK
 Return Analysis GO RETURN

Standard & Poor's GO S&P
 Stock Splits GO DIVIDENDS
 Surcharges GO MMM-23

Ticker Retrieval ® GO TICKER
 Ticker Symbol Lookup GO SYMBOLS
 Unified Management GO UMC

Value Line GO VLINE
 World-Wide Investment Sys. GO WIS
Investors' Forum GO MMM-18

Island of Kesmai GO ISLAND
Issues, Legal:
 Legal Forum GO LAWSIG

J

Journalism Forum ... GO JFORUM

K

Kaypro Users Forum .. GO KAYPRO

L

Las Vegas Hotline GO VEGAS
LDOS/TRS-DOS GO LDOS
Legal:

Incorporating Guide GO INC
Legal Forum GO LAWSIG
Liquid Green GO UMC

Literary Forum GO LITFORUM
Loan Amortization GO HOM-80
Logging On:

CompuServe Logon Inst GO LOG
 DataPac Logon Instruct. GO LOG-41
 TYMNET Logon Instruct. GO LOG-11

Telenet Logon Instruct. GO LOG-20

H I G H L I G H T S

Logistical Systems SIG... GO PCS-49
Logo Forum ... GO LOGOFORUM
Lotus Forum ... GO LOTUS

M

MAUG:

Apple II & III User Group GO APPLEII,
 GO APPLEIII
 Apple Mac Users Forum GO MACUS
 Apple Mac Developers' Forum GO MACDEV

MEDSIG ... GO MEDSIG
MUSUS SIG ... GO MUSUS

Magazines:

Antic ... GO ANTIC
 Computer Language ... GO CLM
 Family Computing ... GO FAM
 Online Today ... GO OLT
 Online Visions ... GO SCI-FI
Macintosh Developers Forum ... GO MACDEV

Macintosh Users Forum ... GO MACUS

Magic Cube Solution ... GO GAM-35

Manuals:

Product Ordering ... GO ORDER

Maps:

EMI Radar Map ... GO EMI-8
 VIDTEX Weather Maps ... GO MAPS

Market Highlights ... GO MARKET

Max Ule's Tickerscreen ... GO TKR

Meal Planning:

Electronic Gourmet ... GO GOURMET

Medical:

AAMSI Communications ... GO AAM
 Healthcom ... GO HCM
 HealthNet ... GO HNT
 MEDSIG ... GO MEDSIG
 Micro-MD Network ... GO MDN
 PaperChase ... GO PCH
MegaWars I ... GO MEGAI
MegaWars III ... GO MEGAI

Mergers

Max Ule's Mergersource ... GO TKR

Micro-MD Network ... GO MDN

MicroPro Forum ... GO MICROPRO

MicroQuote II ... GO MQQUOTE

Microsearch ... GO MSH

Microsoft Forum ... GO MSOF

Military Veterans Services ... GO VET

Money:

Decisionline Money ... GO DEC
Money Market Services ... GO MMS
Monthly Charges ... GO BILLING
Movie Reviewettes ... GO MOVIES
Multi-Player Games Forum ... GO MPGAMES

Multi-Player Games:

Blackjack ... GO MPBLACK
 Island of Kesmai ... GO ISLAND
MegaWars I ... GO MEGAI
MegaWars III ... GO MEGAI
SeaWar ... GO SEAWAR
Space War ... GO SPACEWAR
Music Forum ... GO MUSICFORUM
MUSUS Forum ... GO MUSUS

Mutual Funds:

Donoghue Organization ... GO DON
 Liquid Green ... GO UMC
 No Load Directory ... GO NOLOAD
 Prices/Performance (see Investments)

N

NCNB National Bank ... GO NCB
NOAA Weather Wire ... GO WEA
NWS Aviation Weather ... GO AWX
Naked Eye Astronomy ... GO NIA
Natl. Bulletin Board ... GO BULLET
Natl. Issues Forum ... GO ISSUESFORUM

National Satirist, The ... GO KCS

National Tourism Citilog ... GO CITIES

New Adventure ... GO NEWADVENTURE

New Car Showroom ... GO ATO

New Services:

What's New ... GO NEW

News:

AP Datastream ... GO SPD-1005
 AP Videotex, Business ... GO APV

AP Videotex, Entertainment ... GO APV
 AP Videotex, Politics ... GO APV
 AP Videotex, Weather ... GO APV
 AP Videotex, World News ... GO APV
 CP Business Info Wire ... GO BIW
 College Press Service ... GO CPS
 Executive News Service ... GO ENS
 Government Publications ... GO GPO
 Hollywood Hotline ... GO HOLLYWOOD
 Online Today ... GO OLT
 Sports News ... GO SPORTS
 The Business Wire ... GO TBW
 USA TODAY Update ... GO USA
News-A-Tron ... GO NAT

Newsletters:

AAMSI Communications ... GO AAM
 Agri Commodities ... GO ACI
 Aviation Safety Institute ... GO ASI
 Commodore ... GO CBM
 Daily Comment ... GO DC
 Digital Research Inc ... GO DRI
 Fedwatch Newsletter ... GO MMS
 Stock Index Plus ... GO FFP
Newspapers ... GO NWS
 STL Post-Disp., Business ... GO SPD
 Wash. Post, Editorials ... GO TWP

NIPSIG:

Natl. Issues Forum ... GO ISSUESFORUM

Node Abbreviations ... GO NODES

O

OB-GYN Services ... GO SFP-12

OCC Forum ... GO RADIO

OP-NET SIG ... GO OPNET

Official Airline Guide ... GO OAG

Online Computer Report ... GO RADIO

Online Index ... GO INDEX

Online Today ... GO OLT

Options (see Investments)

Orch-90 SIG ... GO PCS-15

Original Adventure ... GO ORADVENTURE

OS9 Forum ... GO PCS-18

Outdoor Forum ... GO OUTDOORFORUM

P

PDP-11 Forum ... GO PCS-53

PR and Marketing Forum ... GO PRSIG

Pan Am Travel Guide ... GO PANAM

PaperChase (MEDLINE) ... GO PCH

Pascal:

MUSUS SIG ... GO MUSUS

Password, Changing:

Changing Password ... GO PASSWORD

Personal Computing ... GO PCS

Personal File Area ... GO FILES

Personal Finance:

Home Management ... GO HOM-80

Personal Menu ... GO MENU

Personality Profile ... GO TMC-17

Political News:

Wash. Post, Politics ... GO TWP-15

Politics:

AP Videotex, Politics ... GO APV

Political Forum ... GO POLITICS

Portfolio Valuation ... GO PORT

PowerSoft's XTRA-80 ... GO PCS-56

Problems:

Feedback to CompuServe ... GO FEED

Product Ordering ... GO ORDER

Programmer's SIG ... GO PROGSIG

PSFS Direct Line Banking ... GO PSFS

Publications:

Government Publications ... GO GPO

Q

Questions:

Feedback to CompuServe ... GO FEED

Quick Quote ... GO QQUOTE

Quick Reference List ... GO QUICK

Quick & Reilly ... GO QWK

Quick Way Brokerage ... GO QWK

Quips:

The National Satirist ... GO KCS

Quotes (see Investments)

R

Radar:

EMI Radar Map ... GO EMI-8

NWS Radar Reports ... GO AWX

VIDTEX Weather Maps ... GO MAPS

Rapaport Diamond Broker ... GO RDC

Rates:

CompuServe Rates ... GO RATES

Ratios:

Value Line Financials ... GO VLINE

Real Estate:

STL Post-Disp., Real Est. ... GO SPD

World-Wide Investment Sys. ... GO WIS

WorldWide Property Guide ... GO WWX

Recipes:

Electronic Gourmet ... GO GOURMET

Recreation:

WorldWide Property Guide ... GO WWX

Reference:

Directory of Public Officials ... GO DPO

Microsearch ... GO MSH

Religion Forum ... GO RELIGION

Research:

Educ. Research Forum ... GO HOM-28

Government Publications ... GO GPO

Return Analysis ... GO RETURN

Road Maps:

TravelVision ... GO TRV

RockNet ... GO ROCK

S

Satire:

The National Satirist ... GO KCS

Science/Math Educ. Forum ... GO EDU-13

SCI-FI Forum ... GO SCI-FI

Scott Adams' Games ... GO ADAMS

Scramble ... GO SCRAMBLE

Screening, Companies ... GO COSCREEN

Screening, Securities ... GO SCREEN

SeaWar ... GO SEAWAR

Services for Handicapped:

Handicapped Users' Database ... GO HANDICAPPED

Shareholders Freebies ... GO FRE

Shawmut Bank of Boston ... GO SHW

Shop-at-Home:

Comp-u-store ... GO CUS

The Electronic Mall ... GO MALL

New Car Showroom ... GO ATO

Shop-at-Home ... GO SHOP

Showbizquiz ... GO SHOWBIZ

Social Security Admin. ... GO SSA

Southeast Bank ... GO SEB

Space SIG ... GO SPACEFORUM

Space War ... GO SPACEWAR

Sports:

Auto Racing Forum ... GO RACING

Computer Sports World ... GO CSW

Sports Forum ... GO HOM-110

Sports News ... GO SPORTS

Sports Weather Forecasts ... GO WEA

Sports News:

AP Datastream ... GO SPD-1005

Computer Sports World ... GO CSW

Wash. Post, Sports ... GO TWP

Sports Forum ... GO HOM-110

STL Post-Disp., Jobs ... GO SPD

STL Post-Disp., Real Est ... GO SPD

Standard & Poor's ... GO S&P

State Capital Quiz ... GO TMC-44

Stevens Business Reports ... GO SBR

Stocks (see Investments)

Students' Forum ... GO STUFO

Suggestions:

Feedback to CompuServe ... GO FEED

Sun and Sand Vacations ... GO SNS

T

Tandy Corp./Radio Shack:

Tandy Newsletter ... GO TANDY

TRS-80:

Color Computer SIG ... GO COCO

TRS-80 Prof. Forum ... GO PCS-21

TRS-80 Model 100 SIG ... GO PCS-154

TYMNET Logon Instruct. ... GO LOG-11

Tax Laws:

Internal Revenue Service ... GO IRS

Social Security Administration ... GO SSA

Stevens Business Reports ... GO SBR

Teachers:

Educators' Forum ... GO HOM-137

Technical Writers and Editors

Forum ... GO WESIG

TeleComm SIG ... GO TELECOMM

Telenet Logon Instruct ... GO LOG-20

Telephone Access Numbers:

Access Phone Numbers ... GO PHONE

Terminal Software ... GO PCS-20

Terminal Parameters, Changing:

Changing Terminal Type ... GO PROFILE

Texas Instruments Forum ... GO TIFORUM

Texas Instruments News ... GO TINEWS

Text Editors ... GO PCS-20

The Business Wire ... GO TBW

The College Board ... GO TCB

The Electronic Mail ... GO EM

The Multiple Choice ... GO TMC

Ticker Retrieval ... GO TICKER

Tickerscreen ... GO TKR

Touch-Type Tutor ... GO TMC

Travel:

ABC Hotels ... GO HOTELS

American Express (R) ADVANCE ... GO AXP

Decisionline Travel ... GO DEC

Discover Orlando ... GO ORLANDO

Educational Travel Connection ... GO ETC

National Tourism Citilog ... GO CITIES

Official Airline Guide ... GO OAG

Pan Am Travel Guide ... GO PANAM

Travelshopper ... GO TWA

TravelVision ... GO TRV

Vermont Tourism ... GO VERMONT

West Coast Travel ... GO WESTCOAST

WorldWide Property Guide ... GO WWX

Travel Fax ... GO ESC

Travel SIG ... GO TRAVISIG

Travel Abroad:

Department of State ... GO STATE

VISA Advisors ... GO VISA

Travelshopper ... GO TWA

TravelVision ... GO TRV

Trivia:

Showbizquiz ... GO SBQ

Trivia Tests ... GO TMC

The Whiz Quiz ... GO WHIZ

TRS-80 Prof. Forum ... GO PCS-21

U

USA TODAY Update:

Decisionline ... GO DEC

Hotline ... GO USA

U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network ... GO USEN

U.S. News:

Executive News Service ... GO ENS

Fed. Registry Highlights ... GO GPO

STL Post-Disp., U.S. News ... GO SPD

Wash. Post, U.S. News ... GO TWP

Unified Management ... GO UMC

United Amer. Bank ... GO UAB

Unit Trusts:

Max Ule's Tickerscreen ... GO TKR

User Directory ... GO DIRECTORY

H I G H L I G H T S

W

Wanted:

Bulletin Board GO BULLET

Wargames:

MegaWars I GO MEGAI

MegaWars III GO MEGAI

Space War GO SPACEWAR

Wash. Post, Business... GO TWP-12

Wash. Post, Editorials.... GO TWP

Wash. Post, Financial..... GO TWP

Wash. Post, Gov't News... GO TWP

Wash. Post, Politics ... GO TWP-15

Wash. Post, Sports..... GO TWP

Wash. Post, U.S. News... GO TWP

Wash. Post, World News . GO TWP

Weather:

AP Videotex Weather..... GO APV

Aviation Weather..... GO AWX

EMI Radar Map..... GO EMI-8

NWS Weather Reports/Forecasts GO WEA

VIDTEX Weather Maps ... GO MAPS

West Coast Travel GO WESTCOAST

What's New GO NEW

The Whiz Quiz..... GO WHIZ

Whole Earth Software SIG GO WEC

Wine Forum GO WINEFORUM

WITSIG..... GO WITSIG

Work-at-Home Forum .. GO WORK

World of Lotus..... GO LOTUS

World News:

AP Videotex, World News... GO APV

Wash. Post, World News .. GO TWP

WorldWide Property Guide..... GO WWX

World-Wide Invest. Sys.... GO WIS

Writers and Editors Forum GO WESIG

You Guessed It!..... GO YGI

B U S I N E S S / O T H E R I N T E R E S T S

Business Management GO SFP-10

Legal Forum

a discussion forum where members representing all segments of the legal community can exchange ideas and information. These members can leave and retrieve messages under the categories of General Information, Computer Law, Lawyer Referral Network, Pro Bono, Issue Forum, Software, Lawyer to Lawyer and Law Enforcement.
GO LAWSIG

Military Veterans Forum

a forum for veterans of the armed forces, with sections for such topics as Locator Service, Vietnam Vets and Veterans personal adjustment. Also added is a menu for non-veterans and a feedback section for questions about veterans benefits, military careers and other information.
GO VET

PR and Marketing Forum

a discussion forum for PR and marketing professionals to exchange information through messages, conference and a data library with

sections for topics such as education, government, computers, healthcare and PRSA.
GO PRSIG

U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network

is a forum to link individuals who are interested in starting a business to professionals who can offer business advice and services.
GO USEN

World-Wide Investment Service

a computerized investment appraisal system to determine the price of your investments.
GO WIS

H E A L T H P R O F E S S I O N S

GO MEDICAL

AAMSI Communications Network

information provided by the same organization that sponsors the Medical Forum. The data in this electronic newsletter is updated monthly and includes medical journal abstracts and book reviews, vendor information and an index of current journals.
GO AAMSI

AAMSI Medical Forum

a "discussion forum" sponsored by the American Association for Medical Systems and Informatics. Members represent all segments of the professional medical community and use this forum to exchange ideas and information on medically-related topics. Members can access an extensive "help" file on

how to use this forum and receive a listing of computer-based bulletin boards and databases that contain medical information. This forum currently has over 3,000 members throughout North America.
GO AAMSI

Healthcom Medical Information Service and Health Forum

database supplying medical information for medical professionals and consumers. Features the searchable Rare Disease Database. Forum allows professionals and lay persons to participate in health-related discussions.
GO HCM

Micro M.D. Network

features monthly newsletters dealing with the utilization of computers in medicine. It also

contains a searchable database listing of more than 300 medical software programs for mini- and microcomputers.
GO MDN

OBGYN Forum

features an expert-of-the-week who discusses medical topics for professionals. A section on women's health questions and answers lists inquiries and responses by topic.
GO OBGYN

PaperChase

consists of everything in the online Medline file from January 1977 through the current date, with nearly 2 million references from more than 3,400 journals.
GO PCH

M O N E Y M A T T E R S A N D M A R K E T S

Earnings Projections GO EARNINGS

Value Line Forecasts

is a database of three- to five-year forecasts for more than 1,800 companies from Value Line.
GO VLINE

Economic and Market Outlooks

Agri-Commodities

is a weekly commodity newsletter featuring trading recommendations from its Futures Focus TSF Indicator. The Indicator combines important technical, seasonal and fundamental factors to identify potentially profitable long- and short-term positions. Also provides a market overview section and tips on improving your trading performance.
GO ACI

Commodity Market Analysis and Quotes

available from News-A-Tron, includes selected grains, precious metals, petroleum products, and foreign exchange rates. News-A-Tron also offers oscillator information on selected market indices.
GO NAT

GO INTERFACES

Color Plots (VIDPLT or TELPLT)

provide an excellent means of reviewing trends and performance of your favorite securities. Through MicroQuote, plots for up to 17 periods of data (either daily, weekly or monthly) can be received on selected microcomputers (using the VIDTEX Executive) such as the TRS-80 Color Computer, TRS-80

Models I and III, Atari 400, Commodore PET, TRS-80 Videotex Terminal, IBM PC with color monitor, Osborne, and Atari 800. Telidon graphics for 60 periods of data (daily, weekly or monthly) can be received on compatible equipment.

Data Retrieval (DATA)

writes information in a format compatible with your microcomputer, enabling you to download prices for analysis on your microcomputer. Price and dividend information such as volume, high/ask, low/bid, close, dividend amount, type, ex-date, record date and payment date can be retrieved.

H I G H L I G H T S

Business News GO NWS-30

The Business Information Wire provides stories gathered by reporters across Canada and from correspondents abroad. This wire service is updated continuously throughout the day and edited by the Canadian Press with the particular information requirements of the business subscriber in mind.
GO BIW

The Business Wire provides press releases and news articles from the world of business. Updated continuously throughout the day, The Business Wire offers timely information on hundreds of different companies.
GO TBW

Stevens Business Reports gives you weekly information helping you run your small business more effectively. It includes tips on saving money, managing employees, handling taxes, etc.
GO SBR

Associated Press Videotex Business includes business news updated several times throughout the day.
GO APV

Personal Finance/Insurance

Donoghue Moneyletter published by the best-selling author, William E. Donoghue, offers financial advice for consumers. This newsletter, as it appears on CompuServe, draws most of its material from the nationally syndicated newspaper column by William E. Donoghue and the popular printed newsletter, Donoghue's Moneyletter.
GO DON

Incorporating Guide Now you can learn about different business enterprises and actually incorporate your business in any state quickly and economically. Provided by Corporate Agents Inc., a full-service incorporating company, the Incorporating Guide answers the many questions about making this important business move.
GO INC

Insurance Consumer Information Service features information on how to shop for insurance and file a claim. One section describes individual state automobile insurance laws.
GO INS

Internal Revenue Service

offers the full text of 66 Taxpayer Information Publications online. Also includes Tax Tips: answers to commonly-asked questions about income taxes, a list of all IRS taxpayer publications, a list of all tax forms, and online order entry for publications and forms.
GO IRS

Rapaport Diamond Service from the Diamond District on New York's 47th Street includes information on how diamond values are determined, current diamond wholesale price information, buy and sell listings, and diamond market news and reports.
GO RDC

Shareholder Freebies directs your attention to companies who offer free product samples, product discounts, and dividend reinvestment plans to their shareholders. Includes anecdotes and background on the freebies concept.
GO FRE

Social Security Administration supplies information on Social Security, including how to build up coverage, eligibility for benefits, etc.
GO SSA

PERSONAL COMPUTING

News GO COMPUTERS

Antic Magazine the electronic edition of the leading magazine for Atari users.
GO ANTIC

Apples Online comprehensive information and newsletters for Apple computer users.
GO AOL

Ashton Tate Support Library and Forum information and online support for users of Ashton Tate products, such as dBASEII and dBASEIII.
GO ASHTON, GO ASHFORUM

Atari Forums forums for users of Atari 8-bit and 16-bit computers.
GO PCS-132, GO PCS-58
Atari Developers' Forum.
GO ATARIDEV

Borland International Forum Borland, specializing in high-performance, low-cost software, lends support to the users of its software through an online forum. Current Borland products include the Turbo Pascal Family, Sidekick and SuperKey!
GO BORLAND

Commodore Forums forums for users of Commodore computers, including Commodore Education/Entertainment Forum, Commodore Music/Graphics Forum, Commodore

Programming Forum and Commodore Forum.
GO CBM

Computer Language an electronic counterpart to the print magazine, *Computer Language* covers development and trends in programming languages.
GO CLM

Digital Research offers the latest news, communications and public domain software available online via Digital Research's Technical Support Center. Products supported include Digital Research Operating Systems, Computer Languages and GEM (Graphics Environment Manager) products. Also included is a direct feedback line to Digital Research.
GO DRI, DRFORUM

EpsonOnline Forum an Epson user forum discussing hardware, software and peripherals. EpsonNews and Reviews with new product announcements from Epson are included.
GO EPSON

Family Computing Electronic Edition and Forum offers the latest news and reviews from Family Computing magazine, K-POWER — the mini-magazine for kids, direct communication with the Editors at Family Computing, and public domain software listed within the magazine. Join the ongoing discussion in the Family Computing Forum.
GO FAM, GO FAMFORUM

Forth Forum/Creative Solutions sponsored and supported by Creative Solutions supports and encourages all those with questions on the Forth programming language to visit their forum. Topics within the forum include general Forth discussions along with separate topics for Amiga Multi-Forth, Atari ST Multi-Forth and MacFORTH Levels 1 and 2.
GO FORTH

IBM Novice Forum for personal computer owners who are beginning users of IBM Personal Computers. The Novice Forum works with the IBMSIG to provide an information resource for all levels of expertise.
GO IBMNOVICE

Interex/H-P Forum online forum supported by the International Association of Hewlett-Packard Computer Users. Includes a public message system, database of software and information, and a conferencing facility.
GO INTEREX

Tandy Newsletter news and product announcements from the makers of TRS-80 computers.
GO TANDY

Computer Reference GO COMPUTERS

Special Features a brief description of line printer services available to all CompuServe customers.

Terminal Software

a thorough description of the capabilities of CompuServe's VIDTEX software for the TRS-80 Model I and III.
GO VID

Text Editors

a brief summary of the different text editors available online in the Personal Computing area.
GO PCS-82

The World of Lotus

The Lotus Development Corp.-based service with information about Lotus products and services as well as forums for Lotus users. Forums for users of Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony and Jazz.
GO LOTUS

Utilities

a brief listing of some of the utilities available on CompuServe.

Word Processing

a description of CompuServe's powerful RUNF10 word processing program.

Computer Forums GO COMPUTERS

Amiga Forum

provides a place for people interested in the Amiga personal computer to exchange information and receive support. The forum provides several sections for discussion of various Amiga related issues. There are subtopics dedicated to Forum Business, Software, Hardware, Telecommunications and Software Development. The forum also provides data libraries for the exchange of public domain programs and text files for those interested in the Amiga personal computer.
GO AMIGA FORUM

CP/M SIG

a group that has a common interest in the fast growing and popular CP/M operating system. The group discusses CP/M-based software and the various types of machines that support CP/M systems.
GO CPMSIG

DEC PC Forum

is dedicated to the support, understanding and utilization of Digital Equipment Corp.'s line of personal computers. The personal computers supported within the forum includes, but is not limited to the Rainbow, Vt180, Robin and DECmate.
GO DECPC

HUG

Heath Users' Group, comprised of owners of Heath microcomputers. The members of this group trade software and offer tips on the use of Heath Equipment. HUG also has a database of public domain programs for the Heath microcomputer.
GO HEATHUSERS

Hewlett-Packard Forum

an interactive online service is sponsored and supported by Hewlett-Packard. The forum

supports the Hewlett-Packard personal computer line, which includes the Hewlett-Packard Series 100 personal computer and VECTRA, a personal computer that is compatible with the IBM PC/AT. The Hewlett-Packard forum allows you to communicate directly with Hewlett-Packard support engineers, as well as trade tips and techniques with others interested in Hewlett-Packard computers.
GO HP

IBM PC Junior Forum

explores the uses of the IBM PC Junior and to support the needs of the PC Junior user. Public domain programs, information related to common problems, solutions and experiences are all shared. The files and messages within the forum are specific to the IBM PC Junior machine and do not generally duplicate files on other IBM related forums.
GO IBMJR

LSI Users

the LSI Users' Group is comprised of people interested in the uses and applications of the advanced LDOS operating system for the TRS-80. They are organized by Galactic Software.
GO LDOS

MAUG (Micronetworked Apple Users Group)

any Apple owner or user may become a member of any of the three forums supported by MAUG:

- the Macintosh Users Forum (a forum geared towards Apple Macintosh Users). GO MACUS
- Macintosh Developers Forum (a forum for communications of developers for the Apple Macintosh computer line. GO MACDEV
- the Apple II and III Forum (a forum where the Apple II and III computers are discussed. GO APPLEII or GO APPLEIII

These forums also provide a conferencing capability and a vast amount of public domain software for its members.
GO MAUG

MicroPro Forum

forum for distributing information and assistance relating to the MicroPro family of software.
GO MICROPRO

PDP-11(H11)

a group of owners of the H11 and PDP11 family of microcomputers. The members of this group largely discuss programming and applications for these computers.
GO PDP11

TRS-80 Professional Forum

the TRS-80 Users' Group providing equipment and software information on the TRS-80 line of personal and business computers.
GO TRS80PRO

MUSUS p-sys.

sponsored by the UCSD p-System Users' Society (USUS) to promote the exchange of information about UCSD Pascal and its various

applications. MUSUS also provides member to member and member to USUS communication, including the interchange of programs written in UCSD Pascal.
GO MUSUS

Online Today Electronic Edition

an electronic extension of *Online Today* magazine. Contains frequently-updated computer and videotex industry news; reviews of hardware, software and books; new product announcements; and a direct link to *Online Today* advertisers.
GO ONLINE

ATARI SIG

the largest and most active group of ATARI computer users in America today. It features an active message board, and has an interactive conference feature, an extensive database of public domain software and an experienced staff to provide immediate Feedback to user requests.
GO SIGATARI

Telecommunications Forum

is dedicated to discussing the state of the art of telecommunications for microcomputers. Additional sections deal with specific hardware brands and telecommunications products.
GO TELECOMM

The MicroSoft Users' Group

a user group for those with registered software that allows users to interface with the MicroSoft Corporation's customer support team. MicroSoft is a major supplier of software and hardware for most microcomputers.
GO MSOFT

The Writers' and Editors' Forum

a group devoted to news and comments about technical writing for computer oriented magazines. Authors of microcomputer software for all brands of machines and working technical writers are members of this group.
GO WESIG

TRS-80 COCO

the TRS-80 Color Computer Users' Group. Members are interested in all facets and uses of the TRS-80 Color Computer.
GO COCO

TRS-80 Model 100 Forum

a forum for the discussion of applications, software and communications for the new Model 100 microcomputer. Also provided are Model 100 programs from Public Access and technical information such as memory locations.
GO PCS-154

ENTERTAINMENT/GAMES

Entertainment GO ENTERTAIN

ShowBizQuiz™

a trivia game database with movie, television, music and celebrity-related games.
GO SHOWBIZ

Hollywood Hotline

a news and information service of noteworthy events in motion pictures, television programs and music recordings. Also included are ratings of movies, television shows, record albums and videocassettes. Short news items

highlight television shows, describe legal battles and profile personalities.
GO HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood Hotline's Movie Reviewettes™

a thorough and witty treatment of the most recent movie releases. The movie rating guide makes finding a good movie easier.
GO MOVIES

Las Vegas Hotline

offers information about entertainment in Las

Vegas. Users can find out who is appearing at the various hotels, obtain information about casino games and more.
GO VEGAS

The National Satirist

a look at the lighter side of the news. Topics vary from month to month but the emphasis is always on bringing a new perspective on serious and not-so-serious events.
GO KCS

REFERENCE/EDUCATION

Education GO EDUCATION

The Handicapped Users' Database

provides detailed information about software and hardware for handicapped users. HUD also defines various handicapping conditions and gives tips for dealing with them effectively by using computers and other devices.
GO HANDICAPPED

College Press Service

an online news service for and about higher education including legislative news, classroom trends, funding patterns and general administrative affairs. The service is updated every Monday.
GO CPS

The Multiple Choice

a collection of tests designed to be educational and fun. Current offerings include the **TMC Analogies section** which simulates the Miller Analogies Test; **Trivia Unlimited**, a potpourri of trivia questions on history, movies, television, literature and other topics; **Personality Profile**, 40 questions on a variety of life situations to help analyze behavioral patterns; **TMC for Kids**, a special selection of

tests for kids designed to be both fun and educational; **Categorically Trivial**, like Trivia Unlimited but with the questions categorized under such topics as the Bible, sports and American history; **So You Think You Know Me!!**, a fun but informative test of how well two people really know one another; **Stage II**, a two-stage trivia game that first asks users a series of trivia questions from a variety of categories and then asks them to guess what the corresponding theme is to the six questions in the round; and **Touch-Type Tutor** which provides 20 lessons for learning touch-typing on your computer at your own pace.
GO TMC

Educational Research Forum

a discussion forum designed to promote communication among educational researchers, educators, and anyone else interested in the field. Sponsored by the Midwestern Educational Research Association.
GO EDRESEARCH

Educators' Forum

a forum dedicated to discussion of the role of

microcomputers in education from both the educator's and learner's perspectives. Includes dialog about the use of computer-assisted instruction programs (CAI) such as PILOT and PLATO.
GO HOM-137

EPIE Forum

a special interest group for educators, with news and events of interest to computer-oriented educators, students and parents.
GO EPIEFORUM

EPIE Database

focuses primarily on educational software and hardware. Features searchable version of TESS, The Educational Software Selector.
GO EPIE

Science/Math Forum

designed for students, teachers and other CompuServe users interested in science and the future of science education. Databases include public domain programs for downloading.
GO SCIENCE

HOME/HEALTH/FAMILY

GO HOME

The Electronic Gourmet

is a sophisticated cooking guide offered by Home Management Systems. It contains a searchable database of more than 1,000 recipes which include detailed shopping and cooking instructions. Wine suggestions are also included.
GO GOURMET

HealthNet

is a comprehensive, online home medical reference source for the personal computer user. It has been prepared and is updated continuously by a team of licensed, board-certified physicians. Sections include reference library, newsletters and sports, each written in laymans language.
GO HNT

Human Sexuality and Support Group Forum

is a database provided by Howard and Martha Lewis, acknowledged experts in their field. Joining them is a staff of contributing editors in the fields of psychiatry, nursing, medicine and others. The services include topic feature articles, news capsules, answers to commonly asked questions, plus transcripts of discussions among experts.
GO HUMAN

Wine Forum

is a forum for wine lovers nationwide. Includes information and online wine tastings.
GO WINEFORUM

Forums GO FORUMS

Working From Home

a forum for discussing issues and concerns of

people who work at home using microcomputers to conduct or support their work efforts.
GO WORK

Consumer Electronics Forum

is a special interest group for those individuals interested in consumer audio, video, software, satellite systems, telephone equipment and electronic gadgets of all kind. Within this forum you can find information on the latest in consumer electronics technology, along with discussions and critiques.
GO CEFORUM

Good Earth

a forum dedicated to discussing homesteading, gardening, folkways, home management, alternative life styles and energy conservation.
GO GOODEARTH

Your modem should be this good

The most dependable
2400-bps modem
on the market...
USRobotics' Courier 2400

Your personal computer or terminal becomes a data communications powerhouse with USRobotics' Courier 2400 modem.

Whatever your application—file transfer, electronic mail, mainframe access, electronic bulletin boards, public databases—Courier 2400 gets it done. Error-free, simply and FAST—up to 240 characters a second.

If you don't think you need that kind of speed, think again. Compared with a 1200-bps modem, the Courier 2400 can slash your datacom phone bills while it boosts your productivity.

Most public databases and bulletin board systems now offer 2400-bps service. In fact, more than a thousand bulletin board operators have chosen our Courier 2400—a demanding application that has proven the Courier's reliability and efficiency.



Lawrence and Lee, playwrights ("Inherit the Wind," "Auntie Mame," "First Monday in October," and many other Broadway hits, motion pictures and teleplays) **and educators** (professors of Advanced Playwriting at UCLA and USC).

"Our Courier 2400 modems give us instant access to each other's minds across town or across the country. Collaborating on play scripts, exchanging and polishing our words at such dynamic speed is a powerful aid to the creative process. There's never an error, sending or receiving data. And they're as easy as they're fast. As its name implies, the Courier 2400 modem is a swift and dependable messenger. Bravo, Courier!"

USRobotics

The Intelligent Choice in Data Communications

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Why Courier 2400? In a word—quality. Less than one percent of all Courier 2400s have come back to us for warranty service. We challenge the industry to match this record. The auto-dial, auto-answer Courier includes all the features you'd expect in a first-class modem, and then some—like "help screens" and a printed operations summary on the back panel. You can find a modem for more money, but you can't find more modem for your money than Courier 2400.

To learn more, send for our **FREE** booklet, "**24 Questions and Answers on 2400-BPS Modems**."

America's business communicates on USRobotics Modems

Please send my **FREE** copy of "**24 Questions and Answers on 2400-BPS Modems**."

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
COMPANY _____
TITLE _____
PERSONAL USE ☐ BUSINESS USE ☐



Power Director Model P15

**Provides Convenience
and Protection**

Computer Accessories Corp.
6610 Nancy Ridge Dr.
San Diego, CA 92121
619/457-5500

Computers: Virtually any combination of up to five computers and peripherals that can be powered by a 15-ampere line.

Operating System: Not applicable.

Features: Basic Model P15 Power Director provides switch-controlled 115VAC power for up to five external devices and one internal expansion module; push-push action switches with individual LED power indicators; fully shielded, vinyl covered metal casing; built-in line surge protection for all connected devices and for a modem telephone line; static-discharge plate; shielded pocket for 5¼-inch diskettes; UL approved as a transient voltage surge suppressor; meets IEEE Class A and B standards.

Options: Field-installable expansion modules will include 64K to 256K "Print Saver" (printer buffer), "Data Director" (data transfer) and "Private Access" (remote security) devices. Model Tested: Basic Model P15 equipped with standard diskette pocket.

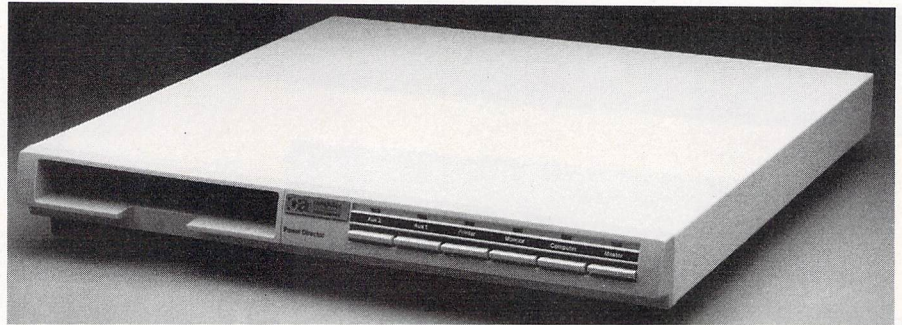
Base Price: \$169.95 for standard model P15; expansion-module prices not yet published.

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau

Computer Accessories' Power Director takes the hassles out of finding enough power outlets, routing cords and reaching power-switches. This sleek power-switching and protection device fits under a monitor or any other convenient place and connects to a wall outlet via a three-prong grounded plug and an 8-foot cord with three 14-gauge wires.

Weighing 10 pounds and measuring 15 by 14¼ by 2¼ inches, the unit provides switched outlets for five external devices. Outlets on the back are adjacent to a 15-ampere "reset" circuit breaker and are designated "Computer," "Monitor," "Printer," "Aux 1" and "Aux 2." Two modular telephone jacks accept a modem on the "Out" jack and a telephone line on the "In" jack to guard against surges on the telephone line.

The right half of the front panel presents six push-to-set, push-to-release



switches. Five correspond to outlets, and one is marked "Master." Outlet switches have accompanying red LEDs illuminated when outlets are on. A green LED for the master switch lights when line power is applied.

At the left, a diskette pocket holds eight 5¼-inch diskettes in dust jackets and supposedly shields them from electromagnetic fields. A metal nameplate centered on the front panel can discharge static electricity from the user's body.

The convenience of central power control is obvious. Individual components can be switched on or off, or the entire system can be controlled with the one master button. I powered a Compaq Deskpro as the computer, an Amdek Color 700 as the monitor, an Epson MX-80 as the printer, a Bernoulli Box as Aux 1, and a Compaq Portable Computer as Aux 2 without popping the circuit breaker. Notably, closely spaced outlets prevent plugging in transformers of many external modems without obstructing at least one adjacent outlet.

Power Director touts state-of-the-art power protection. While I couldn't verify specifications independently, the supplier claims EMI/RFI filtration of -3 decibels at 25 kHz and -60 decibels at 10 mHz; suppression mode protection on hot to neutral, hot to ground and neutral to ground line modes; and maximum clamping voltages using an IEEE standard waveform (6,000 volts at 500 amperes) of 330 volts hot to neutral, 385 volts hot to ground and 385 volts neutral to ground with zero clamping time. It is UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved as a transient voltage surge suppressor and as a temporary power tap. Meeting IEEE 587-1980 Class A and B standards, it should provide effective protection.

Power Director doesn't protect against undervoltages (brownouts) or power interruptions (blackouts). The combined loads of connected devices can exceed capacities of low-cost, low-output emergency power supplies, making them inef-

fective if interposed between the Power Director and a wall outlet.

Although marked with cautions against opening and a notice that there are no user serviceable parts, the case is easily opened by removing four screws. The interior is mostly empty. Telephone-line protection circuitry is on a 2¼- by 1½-inch circuit board near the telephone jacks. Power-line protection is on a 3¼- by 4-inch circuit board. Copper wiring used throughout is secured into a neat harness. Outlets, telephone jacks, static discharge plate and metal chassis share a common ground through the power cord's third wire, and good grounding is crucial. Defeating the three-prong plug with an adapter or using a poorly grounded wall outlet will defeat suppression, shielding and static discharge features.

The principal circuit board has a fixed fuse. An intolerably high surge should blow the fuse, preventing use of a damaged Power Director until it is serviced. Such surges are rare, but a nearby lightning strike could cause one.

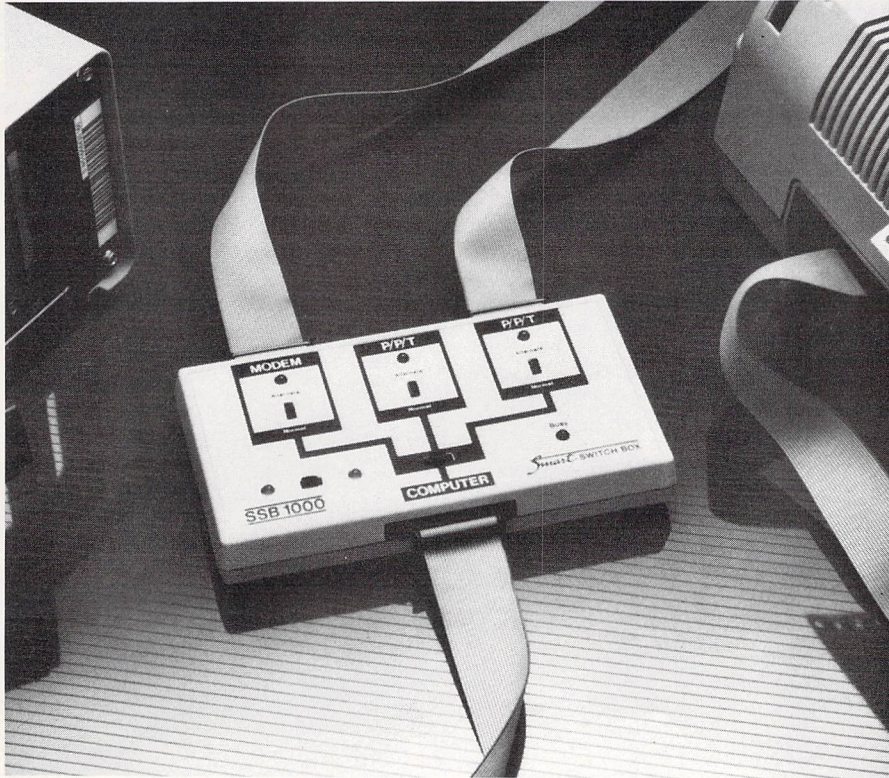
An internal power outlet controlled by the master switch is provided for expansion modules. The supplier recommends that modules be installed by a dealer, but many users will find it easy to open the case, remove the diskette pocket, insert another module and plug it into the internal outlet.

Shielding for the plastic diskette pocket is provided by the unit's grounded metal chassis, and a metal wall shields it from fields in the circuitry compartment. This should be adequate for most installations.

Power Director is well built, nicely designed and convenient. I'll be looking forward to trying the various expansion modules planned by the supplier.

Ernest E. Mau, a fulltime free-lance writer and Online Today reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.

GO EBB or circle 11 on the Reader Service Form.



SSB 1000

A Smart Switch Box For RS232 Devices

IQ Technologies Inc.
11811 N.E. First St., 308
Bellevue, WA 98005
206/451-0232

Computers: Any with an RS-232C, DB25 serial port.

Operating Systems: Not applicable.

Required Peripherals: Up to three RS-232C devices.

Other Requirements: None.

Optional Items: None.

Systems used for test: 640K IBM PC, 20MB hard disk, 360K double-sided double-density diskette drive, Courier 2400 modem, Votrax speech synthesizer, SCM TP-II printer.

List Price: \$179.95

Reviewed by James Moran

Connecting serial devices to a personal computer can be a pain. RS-232 is the "standard" used for interconnection on most personal computers, but as most users know, one manufacturer's standard is another's unsupported option. Most connection problems can be solved by obtaining a special cable, at a

healthy premium price. However, when more than one RS-232 device can be connected, the cost of custom cables combined with the cost of additional serial ports can become prohibitive.

Smart Switch Box (SSB 1000) is an intelligent switching device that eliminates custom cables, additional serial ports or ABC-type switching boxes. This hardware device will attach up to three serial devices to any computer's serial port. Supplied with the necessary 25-pin, straight-through, ribbon cables, SSB 1000 will automatically configure itself. Its internal logic circuitry figures out the required RS-232 interface pattern and makes the correct connections.

Installing the paperback book-sized device takes a few moments and, except for changing a switch setting, no other manual intervention is required. All cables supplied with the SSB 1000 are terminated with a pair of DB25 connectors: one male and one female. Simply plug the correct gender connector into a serial device and connect the opposite end to the SSB 1000. Up to two additional serial devices can be connected the same way. After all peripherals are connected, the SB 1000 is connected to the PC with a single supplied cable. Six-foot cables are standard with the SSB 1000. De-

vices that must be placed at greater distances from the computer may be connected with inexpensive, straight-through ribbon cable.

The SSB 1000 was tested with three dissimilar devices. Cabling requirements for all three (modem, printer and voice synthesizer) were different, and each device had caused problems when originally installed. The voice synthesizer was particularly finicky, and if any problems could be found with the SSB 1000, I was sure this device would find them. The modem was one of the multiple-speed versions that have become popular recently. I knew from experience that, at its highest speed, it had an intense dislike of being routed through unshielded cables and sloppy electronic circuits.

I installed the SSB 1000 in about five minutes. Since I received the device without an operator's manual (that arrived a few days later) it took about 15 minutes to hit the right combination of switch positions. With all three serial devices connected, it didn't take long to run through a few simple tests. Surprisingly, everything worked the first time through. Except for flipping a switch to one of three positions, the SSB 1000 required no intervention to change from modem to printer to synthesizer.

Although three devices can be attached to the SSB 1000, only one can be active. I was curious how my computer would react if it tried to access the modem when it wasn't the active device. It took only a few moments to satisfy my curiosity. When the computer sent the access request to the SSB 1000, the request was denied, and the computer beeped me with a "time out" (in PC lingo that means "it may be there, but I didn't find it"). This would be the expected response, and it's safe to assume that the SSB 1000 and any host PC would be able to coexist peacefully.

The SSB 1000 has been switching my serial devices for about a month. So far, I haven't encountered a single operational problem and doubt that I will. From an economic point of view, this device can be justified easily for any computer connected to two (or more) serial devices that won't run simultaneously. Needing no special cables and only one serial port, the SSB 1000 undoubtedly will become a common enhancement to many personal computers.

James Moran is the editor of Compu-Syn, a syndicated news service that specializes in computers and robotics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.

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Mega Memory Board w/OK	229.00	QUADRAM	
Expanded Quadboard w/OK	182.00	Expanded Quadboard w/64K	198.00
Expanded Quadboard w/384K	215.00	Silver Quadboard w/OK	194.00
Gold Quadboard w/OK	345.00	Quadsprint	409.00
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Color 710 Ultra Hi-Res RGB	425.00	Color 722 RGB Enhanced Graphics	479.00
Tilt & Swivel	29.00	IBM	
IBM Monochrome Monitor	210.00	IBM Color Monitor	525.00
IBM Enhanced Color Monitor	655.00	PRINCETON	
HX-9 Hi-Res RGB Color	389.00	HX-12 Hi-Res RGB Color	415.00
HX-12E Hi-Res RGB Color	485.00	MAX-12E Hi-Res Amber	150.00
SR-12 Super Hi-Res Color	544.00	TAXAN	
121 12" Green	125.00	122 12" Amber	135.00
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630 RGB Color 640x400 res.	429.00	640 RGB Color 720x400 res.	479.00

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Signalman Lighting 2400	340.00	Volskodem 1200	166.00
AST		AST Reach Internal 1200	310.00
HAYES		Smartcom II	84.00
Smartmodem 300 (external)	127.00	Smartmodem 1200 (external)	362.00
Smartmodem 1200B (internal)	319.00	Smartmodem 1200B (internal w/software)	335.00
Smartmodem 2400 (external)	570.00	Smartmodem 2400B (internal)	535.00
Hayes Transter 1000	265.00		

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60MB Cartridge Backup (External)	995.00	CORE INTERNATIONAL	
20MB AT Plus	1199.00	60MB Cartridge Backup (Internal)	1450.00
EVEREX		20MB Cassette Backup (Internal-MEMTEK)	600.00
20MB Cassette Backup (Internal-TEAC)	650.00	60MB Cartridge Backup (Internal)	850.00
60MB Cartridge Backup (External)	995.00	100MB Cartridge Backup (External)	1025.00
IOMEGA		Bernaulli Box 10MB w/Cntrl.	1735.00
Bernaulli Box 10MB Plus w/Cntrl.	1845.00	Bernaulli Box 2-10MB w/Cntrl.	2338.00
Bernaulli Box 2-10MB Plus w/Cntrl.	2445.00	Bernaulli Box 2-20MB w/Cntrl.	3150.00
IRWIN MAGNETICS		10MB Cartridge Backup (Internal)	450.00
10MB Cartridge Backup (External)	675.00	20MB Cartridge Backup (Internal AT)	595.00
20MB Cartridge Backup (External AT)	805.00	MAXTOR	
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MyCalc

A Simplified and Inexpensive Spreadsheet

The Software Toolworks
15233 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
818/986-4885

Computers: IBM PC and compatibles; Heath/Zenith computers running HDOS; also available for CP/M computers.

Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS; also available for CP/M.

Media: At least one disk drive.

Copy Protection: None.

Required Peripherals: None.

Other Requirements: Minimum 128K RAM.

Optional Items: Printer.

System used for test: 512K IBM PC, two double-sided, double-density disk drives, Okidata Microline 84 printer; running PC-DOS 2.1.

List Price: \$59.95

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

Many spreadsheets have capabilities that the average user never taps. This is especially true of blockbusters like Lotus 1-2-3 and MultiPlan. This probably reflects the fact that many spreadsheet users simply don't need the ultracomplex matrices these programs are able to produce.

Spreadsheets can be a great help with basic household chores, such as budgeting and personal financial management. The trouble is that the most popular spreadsheets sport price tags in the hundreds of dollars and require a big investment of time to learn. MyCalc offers one solution to this dilemma.

Be assured, however, that MyCalc isn't going to get by on good looks. The single program disk and the slim 97-page documentation come packaged in a clear plastic bag. Although the 8½- by 5½-inch user's manual is punched for a three-ring binder, it is simply stapled together.

But beauty is only skin deep. Once you get to work using MyCalc, you'll probably forget appearances quickly. MyCalc is as easy to learn as any spreadsheet I've seen. The brief user's manual and the 24 pages of on-screen help that can be called up at any time are all you'll need to put this program to productive use. You can call up help pages with one keystroke without leaving the program.

As an early user of VisiCalc, I can't avoid making some comparisons be-

tween MyCalc and that granddad of all spreadsheets. MyCalc fares surprisingly well.

As with most current spreadsheets, the VisiCalc heritage is evident. While most commands have different names, the command menu is called up and displayed by pressing the Backslash key. Selecting a command can be done by placing the cursor over a menu choice or typing the option's first letter.

However, MyCalc incorporates numerous enhancements that users of the original VisiCalc could only dream about. Multiple column widths and the ability to do a basic sort are two examples. The sort function and a little imagination even allow you to develop a rudimentary form of database management system. The ability to vary column widths throughout a spreadsheet provides flexibility that was unknown in spreadsheets just a few years ago.

The special function keys of the IBM PC keyboard have been put to especially good use for single-key execution of commands without calling up the menu. This allows you to advance from menu-driven mode to command mode as you gain experience and familiarity.

Maximum worksheet size is small compared to state-of-the-art spreadsheets, but the maximum template of 255 lines by 52 columns provides 13,260 cells — more than enough for most household and very small business applications. Moving around the worksheet is done with the cursor movement (arrow) keys. The Pg-Up, Pg-Dn, Home and End keys move quickly to the extreme positions on large worksheets. The right angle bracket (>) serves as the "go to" key. Pressing that key and typing a location, such as H53, speeds the cursor to that cell. In addition to standard arithmetic functions, MyCalc supports logical operators such as less than, equal to and not equal to; trigonometric functions; and the IF, AND and OR functions. These make it possible to construct elaborate what-if equations. Variables in mathematical formulas may be designated as absolute or relative, so relationships between cells won't be disturbed by adding or deleting columns from existing worksheets.

In keeping with the fundamental character of MyCalc, the documentation is geared to spreadsheet beginners. Despite a few lapses, it does a reasonably good job. Because of some cloudy writing, inexperienced users could get the idea that worksheets can be stored only

on the program disk. Instructions for storing files on a separate data disk are there; you just have to search for them.

Experienced spreadsheet users could well be disappointed in MyCalc's lack of advanced capabilities some of us take for granted now, such as macros. However, if you are a spreadsheet beginner and your needs center on home or very small business requirements, you may well find that this program has more capabilities than you'll ever call on. At \$59.95, you'll have to look hard to find a better spreadsheet bargain.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007.420.

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Mighty Mac

Can Help You Avoid Missed Appointments

Advanced Logic Systems
1195 E. Arques Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408/730-0307

Computers: Apple Macintosh 128K, 512K and XL; Lisa 2 with MacWorks.

Operating System: Macintosh desktop environment.

Media: Single disk.

Copy Protection: Protected and uncopyable.

Required Peripherals: None.

Other Requirements: None.

Optional Items: External drive or hard disk.

System used for test: 512K Apple Macintosh with internal drive and Apple ImageWriter printer.

List Price: \$59.95

Reviewed by Joe Farace

There's no doubt that a computer can help you get organized, and many early Macintosh programs were designed to do just that. Perhaps the Mac's desktop analogy made software designers think along those lines. Yet most so-called productivity programs haven't been as effective as a good diary — until Mighty Mac.

After double-clicking the Mighty Mac icon, you're presented with a working screen that looks a lot like an electronic version of a deskpad calendar. This "pad" or "file menu" accesses four major functions: Events, Directory, Reminders and Notes.

On choosing Events, an update window appears for writing the name, date and time of an appointment.

There's enough space for notes. The Directory acts as a "little black book" and helps you keep track of names, addresses and telephone information. The Notes section works much like the Mac's own Note Pad, except that a specific subject may be assigned to each note.

My favorite part is the Reminder. If you're a procrastinator like me, you'll find this feature invaluable. When creating a Reminder, you insert the date and time for something to be done. Like the Events window, there's room for a detailed description and space for a specific message. When the preset date and time is reached, a series of beeps sound, and the "Message" heading along the top of the screen starts blinking. Pulling down the menu reveals your personalized message, and clicking it opens the reminder window. This proved a great way to keep on top of deadlines.

Mighty Mac's "Locate" feature works in any of the four main file areas. Locating a name in the Directory involves opening an "Update" window and inserting the name or portion of the name you're looking for. Clicking "Locate" starts a search for and subsequent display of any record containing that entry. You can use a "Keyword" feature to search for specific events. The keyword is inserted in the pull-down menu, and you can click "Next XXXX" to find the next occurrence.

The calendar shows the current (or past and future) month, year and date, and a built-in clock shows the time. With the calendar in place, only 10 lines of information in any category can be seen. Pulling down the Display menu and clicking "Full Screen" doubles the amount of information on the screen.

You can view individual records by selecting "Specific Data" under the display menu or scroll through the entire file by clicking "Continuous Data" to show abbreviated information. Double-clicking any entry "zooms" it out to show all information originally entered.

The manual doesn't say how much information can be stored by Mighty Mac, and the amount is dependent on how much is filed under each function. Advanced Logic System's own copy has over 300 entries under Directory, so there should be enough space for most individuals or small businesses.

While plenty of data can be stored, there's no provision for conveniently printing a long list. Mighty Mac is designed specifically for on-screen viewing. The only printing provision is

Apple's built-in screen snapshot. Using that to print a 300-entry directory would be slow! A real print function would be helpful for producing a planning calendar or even a simple "to do" list.

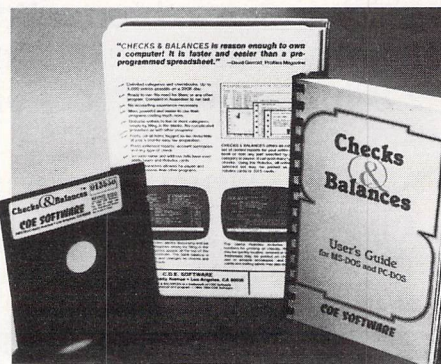
As you can see, Mighty Mac is a mini-database program usable for scheduling personal or business activities. The compact program occupies 102K, and a simple file takes only another 20K of disk space. You may want to include Mighty Mac on a disk you stick in the Macintosh the first thing in the morning. With larger files and a 512K computer, you

could use Apple's Switcher program to rapidly move between MacWrite and Mighty Mac. With a hard disk, you'd probably wonder how you ever got along without Mighty Mac.

If you're a person who needs a nudge now and then and who doesn't feel too confined by the lack of a standard printing option, you'll love Mighty Mac — even if your Macintosh won't fit in your jacket pocket.

Joe Farace is a free-lance writer from Colorado. His CompuServe User number is 76703.3060.

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Checks & Balances

An Inexpensive Financial Management System

C.D.E. Software
948 Tularosa Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
213/661-2031

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT and compatibles.

Operating Systems: PC-DOS and MS-DOS (any version).

Media: Requires two diskette drives required or one diskette drive and a hard disk.

Copy Protection: None.

Required Peripherals: None.

Other Requirements: Minimum 192K RAM.

Optional Items: 80-column or wider printer.

System used for test: 640K IBM PC, 20MB hard disk, 360K double-sided, double-density diskette drive and Epson FX-80+ printer; running PC-DOS 2.1.

List Price: \$74.85

Reviewed by James Moran

Many owners of personal computers would like to put their machines to work at handling family finances. Meanwhile, small businesses that use personal computers for inventory management have the potential of automating their finan-

cial statements, but they still rely on their accountants. Checks & Balances is billed as a universal financial management system for home and small-business use.

This system can create and track up to 3,000 income or expense items, or about a year's worth of transactions, on a double-sided diskette. The system was easy to install, and I had it up and running within about 10 minutes. Special features include the abilities to track multiple checking accounts and to gather selected information for inclusion in custom reports. A built-in Rolodex-style filing system allows address printing for mailings or card files. The system functioned surprisingly well, and the manual was readable and instructive.

Online screens are well-designed and easy to work with. The placement of most screen data was well thought out, so a new user wouldn't be overwhelmed with too-busy displays. Provisions are made to carry accounts over to the next fiscal year, and period or year-end processing includes profit-and-loss statements, balance sheet and net worth, plus a surprising array of subsidiary ledgers the user can customize. Among the nicest features is an ability to budget and provide comparative analyses. About the least useful is the check-writing option, since I doubt most users would need a function they can perform faster by hand.

Checks & Balances is an attractive little system for home users or for very small businesses (home-based businesses would be most appropriate). However, the price is a bit high compared to other competitive accounting packages, so prospective users should shop around and make their own comparisons.

James Moran is the editor of Compu-Syn, a syndicated news service that specializes in computers and robotics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007.2253.

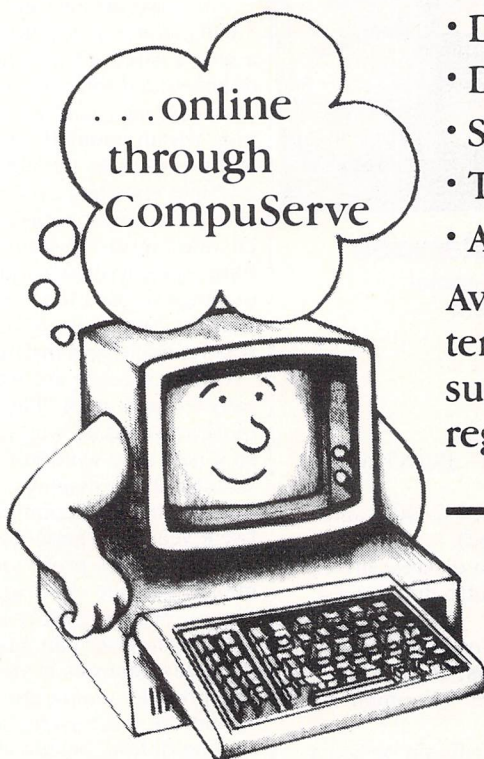
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SwiftCalc 128 with Sideways

A Good Value

Timeworks Inc.
444 Lake Cook Rd.
Deerfield IL 60015
312/291-9200 or 800/323-9755

Computers: Commodore 64 or 128.

Operating System: Commodore DOS.

Media: Requires one Commodore 1541 disk drive.

Copy Protection: Program is heavily copy protected; no backup included but may be purchased for \$14.70 with return of warranty card; defective disks replaced if returned within 90 days with proof of purchase.

Required Peripherals: Commodore 1541 disk drive; 80-column monitor interfaced through RGB port; third-party or Commodore printer.

Other Requirements: None.

Optional Items: None.

System used for test: Commodore 64, one 1541 disk drive, Commodore 1702 monitor and special cable, Cardco +G printer interface and Epson RX-80 printer.

Retail Price: \$69.95

Reviewed by Cheryl Peterson

SwiftCalc 128, the spreadsheet in Timeworks new trio of programs for the Commodore 128, uses a Macintosh-like menu bar and "pull-down" menus. Pressing the Escape key displays the menu bar across the screen's top. Left- and right-arrow keys highlight the desired option, and hitting the Return key "pulls down" the requested menu, revealing its options. Up- and down-arrow keys then highlight the appropriate option, and by hitting Return again you can activate the option.

While an effective way for new users to experiment with a program, menus become cumbersome as the user gains experience, so Timeworks plans to add direct commands to its first SwiftCalc upgrade. The program does have a "repeat the last command used" feature, so you needn't pull down the menus to reuse a command.

Cells initially are fixed at a given size, but can be adjusted to new widths as data are entered. Cells can contain numerical data, labels, text or formulas for calculations. The formulas can contain up to 240 characters and use cell names as variables. For instance, adding the first three cells in column A would be done by specifying a formula cell and en-

tering its contents as A1 + A2 + A3. The numbers' appearance, inclusion of dollar signs and designation of decimal places are adjusted easily. Scientific notation can be used if you prefer.

Automatic cursor advance can be set to go to the next cell to the right or down. SwiftCalc has word processor-type features as well. You can add, delete, move or copy cells, rows, columns or blocks of cells. You can search or search-and-replace. You can even set tab stops. A "Go To" command accesses any cell instantly.

SwiftCalc's default recalculation setting causes all formulas to be reevaluated each time any cell's contents change. While ideal for small spreadsheets, recalculation delays can become annoying in complex or lengthy forms, especially since a Commodore 64 can't handle data input while calculating. However, automatic recalculation can be suppressed, and a command to "force" manual recalculation can be used instead.

Commands are provided to check the amount of memory left or to freeze a row or column. The freeze command keeps label fields on the screen and helps prevent confusion when deep inside a spreadsheet.

Besides processing user defined formulas, the program has useful predefined functions built in, including the minimum, maximum and average values of ranges; the sum or value count of a range; the absolute or integer value of a cell; and the present and future value of a dollar or an annuity. Any of these can be used within your own formulas.

SwiftCalc 128 includes print drivers that work with most popular printers and interfaces. Simple instructions for setting DIP switches of the popular printer interfaces make printer setup easy. The program has provisions for modifying print control codes, so special fonts and type sizes are available. It contains an option to designate the third number used in the "Open" command and allows toggling ASCII correction on and off. A utility called "Sideways" is included and enables rotating wide spreadsheets for printing.

Timeworks' documentation is outstanding. An alphabetical glossary defines potentially unfamiliar words in advance. An opening tutorial shows how the main features work, and the sample it creates can be useful with only a little modification. Sample files are on disk and the manual is sprinkled with examples. A "facts at your fingertips" section is a reference area for those who like to

just dive in and deal with problems when they arise. A section on troubleshooting and error messages helps when things don't seem to work right. The documentation also includes extensive explanations of the built-in formulas and functions.

SwiftCalc 128 shares data with Data Manager 128 and Word Writer 128 through use of translators provided with SwiftCalc 128.

Timeworks offers a unique upgrade procedure. Since a revision is planned to correct the program's dependence on a special cable not provided with the system, this is a key point. Registered users can update old disks by returning them with a check for \$7.70. Timeworks then issues a new disk and updated manual. Since they also provide a toll-free number and other support, they're one of the most helpful software vendors I've seen.

Cheryl Peterson, a free-lance writer from Miami Beach, writes reviews for several computer magazines. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366,2645.

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Compute!'s Guide To Telecomputing on the Apple

By Thomas E. Enright, Joan Nickerson and Anne Wayman

Compute! Publishing, 1985

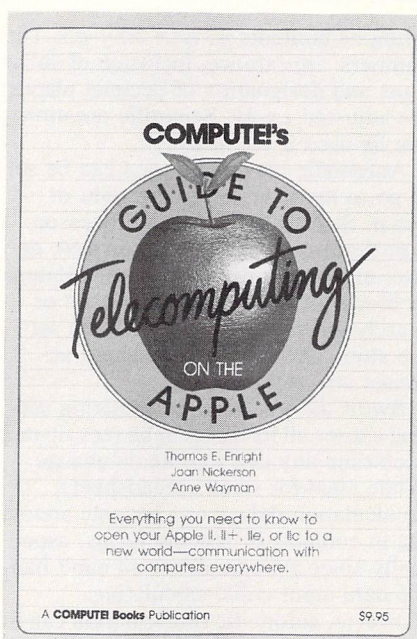
173 pages, \$9.95 (softcover)

Reviewed by Alex Krislov

Telecomputing is one of the microcomputing world's most popular hobbies — witness where you are reading this review. Naturally, every new hobby and business requires a few books dealing with the fundamentals. The volume at hand covers only Apples — the II, II Plus, IIe and IIC models.

So focused a subject should yield a simple, easy-to-follow book. And indeed it has. But there is such a thing as too much simplicity, and *Compute!'s Guide to Telecomputing on the Apple* suffers from overly specific material and bad organization.

The book attempts to cover every aspect of telecomputing — a noble goal, but the amount of detail varies from subject to subject. Some of the subjects



chosen for copious detail would be better served by separate appendices. Others lack detail where some would be welcome.

To provide a single example, the authors write at length about timesharing

services, including CompuServe. Instead of going into sufficient detail to help a neophyte learn to use CompuServe, they insert page after page of "GO codes," a menu every CompuServe subscriber will get in the mail upon sign-up. This is at least a waste of pages and at worst a waste of opportunity. A discussion of how to make optimum use of the service would have been far more helpful.

In other areas, the tendency toward much detail serves the reader well. To their credit, the authors have reviews of specific modems and other hardware, rather than vague descriptions of what the reader might want. Each modem is discussed in terms that are easily understood. Similarly, a number of the most popular telecommunications programs for the Apple are considered, with listings of their various capabilities.

If you're new to telecomputing and use an Apple, you can find answers to some of your more obvious questions here. Those looking for a good overview and well-considered information had best search elsewhere.

Alex Krislov is a free-lance writer from Cleveland. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007.2130.

The Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications

By Alfred Glossbrenner

St. Martin's Press, 1985

546 pages, \$14.95 (softcover)

Reviewed by James Moran

This book arrived with a lot of supporting paperwork: pages and pages of testimonials from the great, the near-great and the great-to-be. It also arrived with one heck of a mouthful for a title. Ready? *The Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications: Everything You Need to Go Online with the World*. All the public relations hype for this book could easily have been converted for use in the next "Rocky" movie. So with all the sound and thunder can this book be as good as its press clippings?

Of course, the author, Alfred Glossbrenner, isn't exactly shy about leading his own parade. This is the second version of the book. The first sold some 200,000 copies and was about 200 pages lighter. Since the first version was so popular, what in this version justifies a new book? Well for one thing, 90 percent

of the existing material has been rewritten to reflect the changes in updated public facilities.

The sections on electronic mail, computer bulletin boards and teleconferencing have been completely rewritten. New chapters or sections have been added for the Telex network, the Delphi electronic information service and packet-switching networks. Other additions include a section on electronic stockbrokers and "encyclopedia databases."

But for those of you who have never read the original *Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications*, you'll find that the title lives up to its promise. The book is absolutely packed with information in its six sections. The first of those sections shows readers how to get their computers communicating with the rest of the world. Buying modems and the appropriate software is discussed, and some useful tips on making telecommunicating fun and inexpensive are presented.

Section 2 explores online utilities, or information services, such as CompuServe and The Source. Delphi, an addition since the last version of this book, is discussed in equal detail as its two older competitors. These chapters include a listing of the major subject are-

as on each information service, as well as a wealth of practical information on fees and access techniques. Section 3 is for serious communicators who use their personal computers and modems to make — or lose — money. These three chapters include detailed information on stock market access, electronic stockbrokers and NewsNet.

The fourth section discusses telecommunications: electronic mail, conferencing and communications.

Section 5 concentrates on what are often called knowledge databases. The services contain encyclopedic information on virtually any subject, and they are for use by advanced users.

The sixth and final section of the book brings telecomputing back to the home front with discussions of electronic banking and shopping, work-at-home options and some insight into the thousands of bulletin board systems that can be accessed from a personal computer.

The Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications has become known as a classic in its field, and this new, expanded edition continues the tradition.

James Moran is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to *Online Today*. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007.2253.

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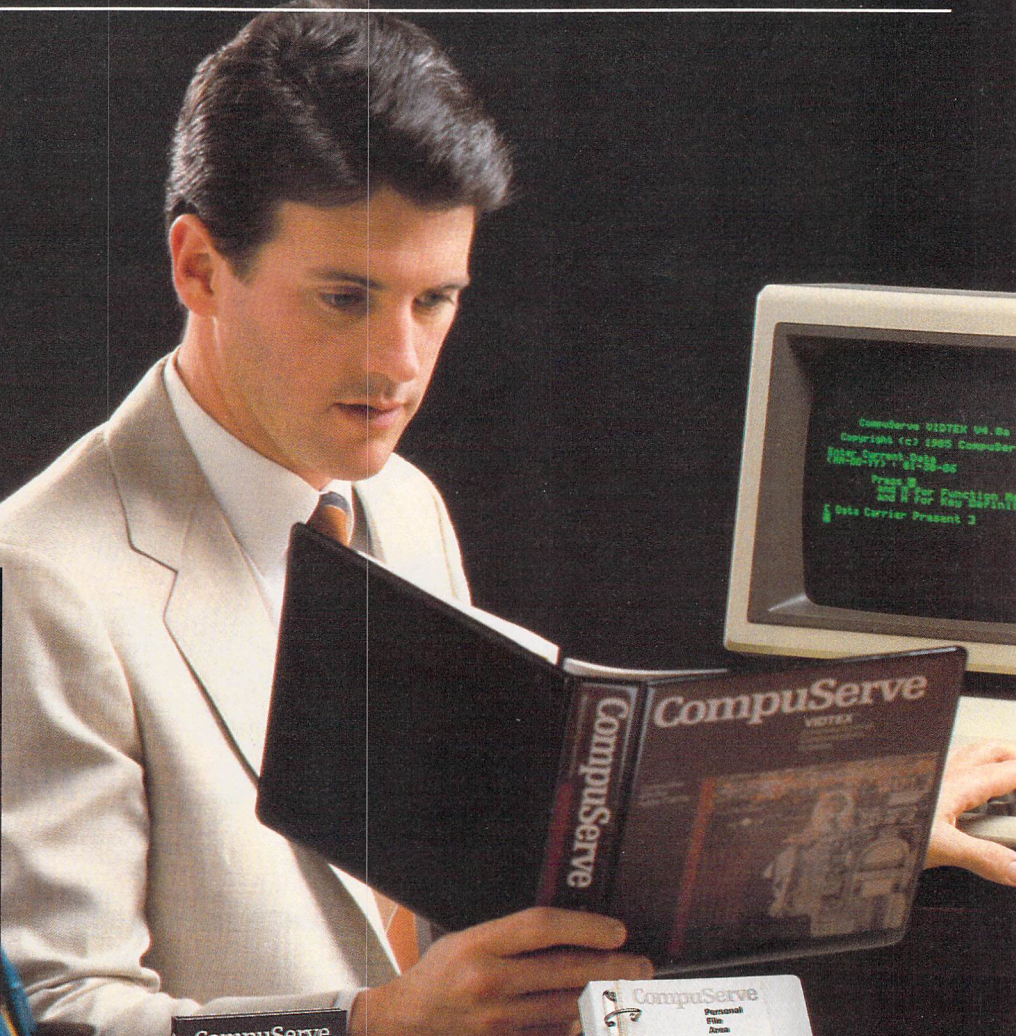


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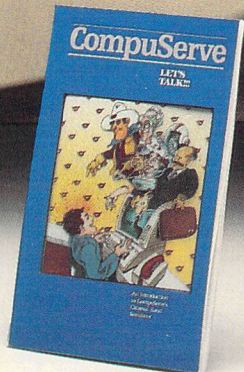
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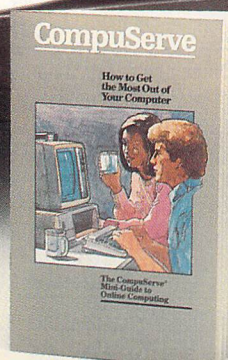
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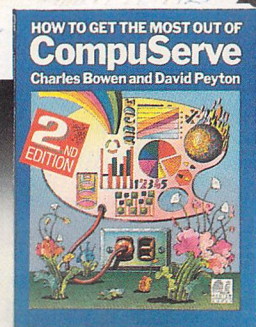
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Online Research and Retrieval with Microcomputers

By Nahum Goldmann
TAB Professional and Reference Books, 1985

197 pages, \$25 (hardcover)

Reviewed by Joe Farace

I think computer books should be user friendly. Unfortunately, that's not the case with *Online Research and Retrieval with Microcomputers*.

The cover is nicely designed and may catch your eye in a store, but this book is specifically oriented toward scientific and technical users of online databases, not the casual CompuServe browser. (It also is aimed at IBM PC owners. While the "clones" are mentioned, the author strongly recommends the original — not a copy. Owners of other computers — like me — may want to skip Chapter 6 since it is very PC-specific in discussions of hardware and software.)

Goldman's book is built around a concept he calls the "Subject Expert Searching Technique," and with little modification, this approach may be applied to any modem-equipped microcomputer. He explains his approach in several chapters, beginning with building a strategy through actually running a search. The last chapter of the book is especially good since it summarizes the principle elements of the author's technique and provides a comprehensive list of "dos and don'ts."

This is not a lightweight volume, and although Goldman maintains a friendly yet scholarly writing style, the book's design works against him. There is no overall "look" to the pages. Many different styles of graphs and charts are used alongside one another, but instead of supporting the text it works against it. Boldface type is scattered across the pages supposedly to emphasize the important points, but it only adds to the visual confusion.

But if you're serious about exploring online databases and need electronically acquired information in your profession, *Online Research and Retrieval with Microcomputers* can be helpful. Examples of searches on BRS, Dialog, ORBIT, MEDLARS and other heavy-duty databases are shown.

The information is all there; you'll just have to work hard to extract it.

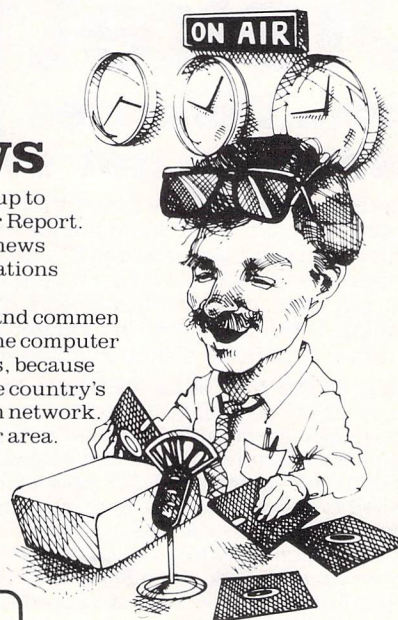
Joe Farace is a free-lance writer from Colorado. His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,3060.

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A NEW COMPANY WAS NEEDED AND STARTED

Fortunately, other people in the diskette industry recognized that making ultra-high quality diskettes required the best and newest manufacturing equipment as well as the best people to operate this equipment. Since most manufacturers seemed satisfied to give you only the everyday quality now available, an assemblage of quality conscious individuals decided to start a new company to give you a new and better diskette. They called this product the *Super Disk* diskette, and you're going to love them. Now you have a product you can swear by, not swear at.

HOW THEY MADE THE BEST DISKETTES EVEN BETTER

The management of *Super Disk* diskettes then hired all the top brains in the diskette industry to make the *Super Disk* product. Then these top bananas (sometimes called floppy freaks) created a new standard of diskette quality and reliability. To learn the "manufacturing secrets" of the top diskette makers, they've also hired the remaining "magnetic media moguls" from competitors around the world. Then all these world class, top-dollar engineers, physicists, research scientists and production experts (if they've missed you, send in your resume to *Super Disk*) were given one directive...to pool all their manufacturing know-how and create a new, better diskette.

HOW SUPER DISK DISKETTES ARE MANUFACTURED

The *Super Disk* crew then assembled the newest, totally quality monitored, automated production line in the industry. Since the manufacturing equipment at *Super Disk* is new, it's easy for *Super Disk* to consistently make better diskettes. You can always be assured of ultra-tight tolerances and superb dependability when you use *Super Disk* diskettes. If all this manufacturing mumbo-jumbo doesn't impress you, we're sure that at least one of these other benefits from using *Super Disk* diskettes will:

- 1. TOTAL SURFACE TESTING** - For maximum reliability, and to lessen the likelihood of disk errors, all diskettes must be totally surface tested. At *Super Disk*, each diskette is 100% surface tested. *Super Disk* is so picky in their testing, they even test the tracks that are in between the regular tracks.
- 2. COMPLETE LINE OF PRODUCTS** - For a diskette to be useful to you and your computer, it must be compatible physically. *Super Disk* has an entire line of 5 1/4-inch and 3 1/2-inch diskettes for your computer.
- 3. SPECIALLY LUBRICATED DISK** - *Super Disk* uses a special oxide lubricant which is added to the base media in the production of their diskettes. This gives you a better disk drive head to media contact and longer head and disk life.
- 4. HIGH TEMPERATURE/LOW-MARRING JACKET** - A unique high temperature and low-marring vinyl jacket allows use of their product where other diskettes won't work. This special jacket is more rigid than other diskettes and helps eliminate dust on the jacket.
- 5. REINFORCED HUB RINGS** - Standard on all 48 TPI *Super Disk* mini-disks, to strengthen the center hub hole. This increases the life of the disk to save you money and increase overall diskette reliability.
- 6. DISK DURABILITY** - *Super Disk* diskettes will beat all industry standards for reliability since they will give you more than 75% of the original signal amplitude remaining even after an average (Weibull B-50) of 30 million passes. They are compatible with all industry specifications as established by ANSI, ECMA, ISO, IBM and JIS.
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- 8. LIFETIME WARRANTY** - If all else fails, remember, all disks made by *Super Disk* Inc., have a lifetime warranty. If any *Super Disk* diskette fails to meet factory specifications, *Super Disk* Inc. will replace them under the terms of the *Super Disk* warranty.
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5 1/4" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope	6487-CA	0.43
5 1/4" DSDD Soft Sector w/Hub Ring	6491-CA	0.64
5 1/4" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope	6497-CA	0.49
5 1/4" DSQD Soft Sector (96 TPI)	6501-CA	0.99
5 1/4" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope	6507-CA	0.84
5 1/4" DSHD for IBM PC/AT - bulk pack	6667-CA	2.07
3 1/2" SSDD (135 TPI) - bulk pack	6317-CA	1.67
3 1/2" DSDD (135 TPI) - bulk pack	6327-CA	1.99

SSSD = Single Sided Single Density; SSDD = Single Sided Double Density; DSDD = Double Sided Double Density; DSQD = Double Sided Quad Density; DSHD = Double Sided High Density; TPI = Tracks per inch.

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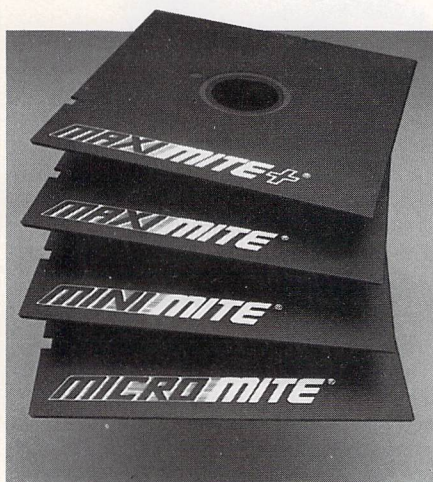
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Mite Communications

Mycroft Labs has expanded its Mite communications software into five new versions designed for specific business segments.

Micro-Mite, selling for \$49.94, is for CP/M and MS-DOS systems and includes preconfigured logons for major online databases. Mini-Mite, also for CP/M and MS-DOS systems, comes with standard sending and receiving capabilities and sells for \$95.

Retailing for \$150, Maxi-Mite is for CP/M, MS-DOS and Mac systems and offers multi-protocol asynchronous functions. Maxi-Mite+ for CP/M-80 and IBM compatibles sells for \$175 and offers a script file command language and terminal emulation. Verti-Mite, which has a variable price, is for CP/M and MS-DOS systems and is specifically designed for individual industries.

For information, contact Mycroft Labs Inc., 2615 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32303; 904/385-1141.

GO EBB or circle 21 on the Reader Service Form.

Acculine Modem

General DataComm Industries Inc. has introduced a new 2400 bps modem specifically designed for use with personal computers in business applications.

Supporting the new industry standard "AT" instruction set, the Acculine 2400 also operates in synchronous modes at 300 and 1200 bps.

For information, contact General DataComm Industries Inc., Middlebury, CT 06762-1118; 203/574-1118.

GO EBB or circle 22 on the Reader Service Form.

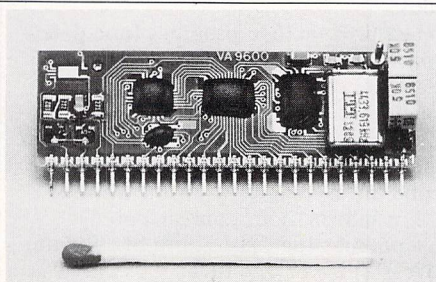
The Impersonator

The 2.0 version of The Impersonator communications software and terminal emulation package has been released by Direct.Aid Inc.

The updated version makes it easier and faster to emulate more terminals, to emulate multi-page terminals and perform special applications, such as electronic mail.

For information, contact Direct.Aid Inc., P.O. Box 4420, Boulder, CO 80306; 303/442-8080.

GO EBB or circle 23 on the Reader Service Form.



Shirt Pocket Modems

Valtronic has introduced two shirt pocket-sized modems incorporating chip-on-board technology.

Measuring 2½ inches by ¾ inch, the modems come in half- or full-duplex, 300 or 1200 bps and are assembled on regular G-10 boards. Their size makes them ideally suited for laptop computer applications.

For information, contact Valtronic Inc., 2200 S. Main St., Suite 304, Lombard, IL 60148.

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Access to Modems

Microsoft Corp. has announced that MultiModems from Multi-Tech Systems Inc. have successfully completed testing by Microsoft for use with that company's new Access communications software.

Users of Access will see Multi-Tech's modems listed as compatible with Access operations in three places in the program. MultiModems are intelligent microprocessor-controlled modems that are available in 300, 1200 and 2400 bps speeds, as desktop cabinets or internal boards and feature a variety of operational capabilities.

For information, contact Multi-Tech Systems Inc., 82 Second Ave. S.E., New Brighton, MN 55112; 800/328-9717 or 612/631-3550.

GO EBB or circle 25 on the Reader Service Form.

Mercury Modem

The Mercury 1200 Intelligent Modem from Mercury Modems is designed to continually search for the cleanest part of the center track of a telephone line to provide users with less noise and other interference that can cause a modem to fail.

Priced at less than \$300, the modem works with both Bell and Hayes modem software. It is compatible with almost any computer system.

For information, contact Mercury Modems, Spokane Industrial Park, Building N-2, Spokane, WA 99216; 509/922-7455.

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Codex 2200 Modems

Codex Corp. has introduced a new family of Bell-compatible modems, the Codex 2200 Series.

The modems, which include the Codex 2215, 2216 and 2217, operate at up to 2400 bps. They are primarily intended for half-duplex, asynchronous and synchronous environments. Each of the modems are lightweight "mini-boxes" for more efficient use of space.

For information, contact Codex Corp., 20 Cabot Blvd., Mansfield, MA 02048-1193; 617/364-2000.

GO EBB or circle 28 on the Reader Service Form.

SideDialer

SideDialer from Quadtel Corp. is a low-cost telephone dialer for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatible computers.

The product consists of a half-sized dialing expansion card and a software package that provides dialing with SideKick and other desktop managers and application programs without having to use an auto-dial modem. SideDialer retails for \$54.95.

For information, contact Quadtel Corp., 2030 E. 4th St., Suite 232, Santa Ana, CA 92705; 714/543-7755.

GO EBB or circle 29 on the Reader Service Form.

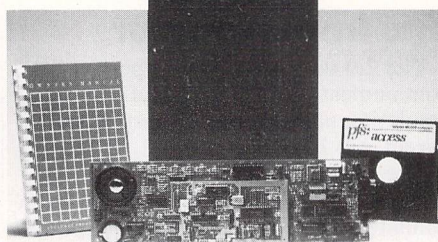
Dial-Back Security Device

SuperSleuth from C.H. Systems Inc. is a dial-back security device that is equipped with a 300/1200 baud Hayes compatible modem.

SuperSleuth requires all would-be users to enter a name and password. If the caller is authorized, SuperSleuth initiates a call-back sequence and connects the modem. An optional Audit-Tail feature provides a complete log of computer accesses and attempted accesses through dial-up ports. Retail price is \$590; Audit-Tail sells for an additional \$50.

For information, contact C.H. Systems Inc., 8533 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 106, Los Angeles, CA 90069; 213/854-3536.

GO EBB or circle 30 on the Reader Service Form.



Zoom Modem

The Zoom/Modem PC 1200 from Zoom Telephonics Inc. is an advanced, Hayes compatible, 1200 bps modem for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.

Features include progress tone detection, Demon Dialing of busy numbers, real-time clock/calendar, solid state touch-tone detector, auto-answer touch-tone password security, audio input port and RAM buffer for background electronic messaging.

For information, contact Zoom Telephonics Inc., 207 South St., Boston, MA 02111; 617/423-1072.

GO EBB or circle 31 on the Reader Service Form.

Compact Modem

A downsized 201C modem that fits neatly under a standard desk telephone is now available from Emerald Technology Group Inc.

The Emerald 201C is a 2400 bps synchronous modem that measures less than 7 inches wide by 10 inches long and slightly over 2 inches high. Features include seven LEDs on the front panel, digital signal processing under microprocessor control and several diagnostic test functions. It sells for \$685.

For information, contact Emerald Technology Group Inc., 1601 116th N.E., Bellevue, WA 98004; 206/462-8200.

GO EBB or circle 32 on the Reader Service Form.

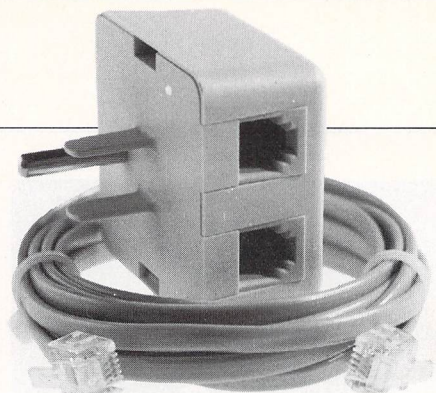
RGS File and Report

Rio Grande Software has introduced RGS File and Report data management programs for the Macintosh, Apple IIc and IIe, IBM PC and compatibles.

The software allows production of reports, lists and summaries. The package contains three programs: File Manager, Record Manager and Report Manager. Retail price is \$89.95.

For information, contact Rio Grande Software Inc., 221 Nolana, P.O. Box 5906, McAllen, TX 78504; 800/292-1031, ext. 2785 (in Texas) or 800/527-1121, ext. 2785 (nationwide).

GO EBB or circle 33 on the Reader Service Form.



Telephone Line Surge Protector

Kalglo Electronics Co. Inc. has introduced the TLP-1 Telephone Line Protector.

The unit plugs into any standard three-prong grounded wall receptacle and provides phone jacks for inserting the telephone line cord and modem or other telecommunication device. A six-foot telephone connector cord is also provided. The TLP-1 prevents damaging telephone line spikes from entering modems, CPUs and other equipment.

For information, contact Kalglo Electronics Co. Inc., 6584 Ruch Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017-9359; 215/837-0700.

GO EBB or circle 34 on the Reader Service Form.



20/20 Mindsight

Mindsight from Execucom Systems Corp. is a business and analysis software product for the Apple Macintosh computer.

Mindsight is a micro-based version of Execucom's mainframe software, Interactive Financial Planning System (IFPS), an industry standard in business planning, analysis and modeling. It has advanced features for forecasting and planning, assessing risks and testing the feasibility of goals. Retail price is \$195.

For information, contact Execucom Systems Corp., 3410 Far West Blvd., Austin, TX 78731; 512/346-4980.

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RATES & INFORMATION

If you have hardware, software or services to offer *Online Today's* readers, let them know with a low cost Shopper's Guide listing.

For only \$85, a listing will tell *Online Today's* growing readership what is available to improve efficiency, lower costs and increase the enjoyment of personal computing.

Listings are classified in four categories: Software, Services, Consultants and Retailers. As each listing is received, it will be published in the next available issue of *Online Today*.

Each listing costs \$85. This covers the general listing information as well as a 40-word description of the product or service. Additional words are \$15 for up to 15 words. Listings that run for three or more consecutive issues earn a 10 percent discount. Payment *must* be received with listing information.

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April issue, not valid after July 1986.

Sharing Tragedy in the Online World

Last January, when the space shuttle Challenger exploded at liftoff, an amazing, inspiring thing happened on CompuServe. Just 10 minutes after that tragedy, subscribers began logging in to CompuServe's Space Forum.

An impromptu real-time conference began shortly before noon and continued without a break for more than 16 hours. Throughout the afternoon and evening and into the wee hours of the following morning, thousands came from around the country to share their grief and bits of news and theories of what caused the disaster.

Early in the day, when facts from Cape Canaveral still were scarce, those on the scene linked up directly to the Space Forum to bring the latest word to the assembled group. For hours, Larry Wood, forum administrator of Discover Orlando and other Florida-related features on CompuServe, provided such on-the-spot reports. Others would join him.

Later still, as the full effect of the terrible event came home to us all, there were many well-thought-out theories as to what had gone wrong. You would expect that in the Space Forum. Forum Administrator Dick DeLoach, a NASA employee, has attracted other experts and longtime space enthusiasts to his group.

"I learned more in 20 minutes in your conference," one conferee, Jeff Massie, wrote DeLoach later, "than in 12 hours of watching TV."

That alone — having immediate access to the theories and perspectives of veteran space observers — would have made that sad evening historic for us online. But even more significant, I think, is the fact that the rest of us came together, too.

What made the loss of the Challenger particularly poignant to us is that we feel a kinship to all those who are pushing technology to new heights, whether it's in space or on the frontiers of communications. It seemed fitting, then, that we should have turned to this medium, by which we so often celebrate our victories, to share our thoughts in times of loss.

And the comments were heartfelt.

"A few years ago," wrote subscriber Gary McGath, "I saw the shuttle Columbia on the ground. . . . For me, that was as close to a religious experience as I have had: seeing an image of human



achievement proudly pointed at the stars. The fact that reaching such heights apparently had become routine and was taken for granted was a major part of the shuttle's glory; the realization that it never was routine and won't be for many years is a key to the shock we all feel."

And Larry Wood, after hours of reporting facts, took a moment in the early morning to contemplate what he'd seen.

"I remember as a young man, President Kennedy's assassination," he wrote. "I thought that horrible day would never end. Today, once more, I felt that the day would never end. But it is winding down now and I have time to reflect When the immediate grieving is over and when the news commentaries are over, we as individuals and as a nation and, yes, even as a world must remember, The Dream is Alive."

The tradition of public mourning is an ancient one. It serves those of us left behind as much as the memory of those who have passed on. Not only does it help us purge the poison, but it shows us we aren't alone in our sorrow.

DeLoach, on hand for most of marathon conference, said in a message

posted at about 4 the following morning that until then "I didn't quite realize just how intensely the loss was felt."

"I'll never forget," he said, "the expressions I saw on the faces of my colleagues at Langley today, and I'm sure it was that way throughout NASA. Never have I seen such expressionlessness on what are customarily such animated faces, and it was as if the word 'joy' had ceased to be defined. I don't often need much in the way of comfort (and) support, but I did this day and I'm grateful for the sentiments you expressed."

From despair came a renewed determination for many online.

Said Tom Kennedy, "I want desperately to see a time when we as humans can take on the vastness of space and realize how petty are our squabbles here on earth."

Perhaps the feeling of determination that arose was best captured by Bill Doorley in a simple two-sentence message:

"I'll fly tomorrow," he wrote. "Who's with me?"

We are a young community online, not even a decade old. The shuttle disaster was the first tragedy of this magnitude that we'd experienced together. I think we learned much that evening.

From a purely technical point of view, we learned we're growing up, that we knew almost instinctively where to assemble no matter which information service we were using.

On CompuServe that night, we naturally gravitated toward the Space Forum, the Science Fiction Forum and the education forums. The counterparts on The Source were drawn to the Participate conferencing program. Even the smallest systems were involved. Out in Colorado, a conferencing service called Unison remembered the fallen seven Challenger astronauts in what might have been the first electronic memorial service.

On a higher level, we learned that the world around us is not apart from us. We come to these systems to view the world from a special perspective, not to escape from it. Its tragedies — as well as its joys — reach us here, sometimes even more deeply because of our perspective. It's gratifying to know that we, too, can light a candle and make a statement as a group.

In the end, it is inspiring that in our grief we found that these systems, which we've come to count on to inform us every day, also can listen.

Charles Bowen is a contributing editor of Online Today. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007.411.

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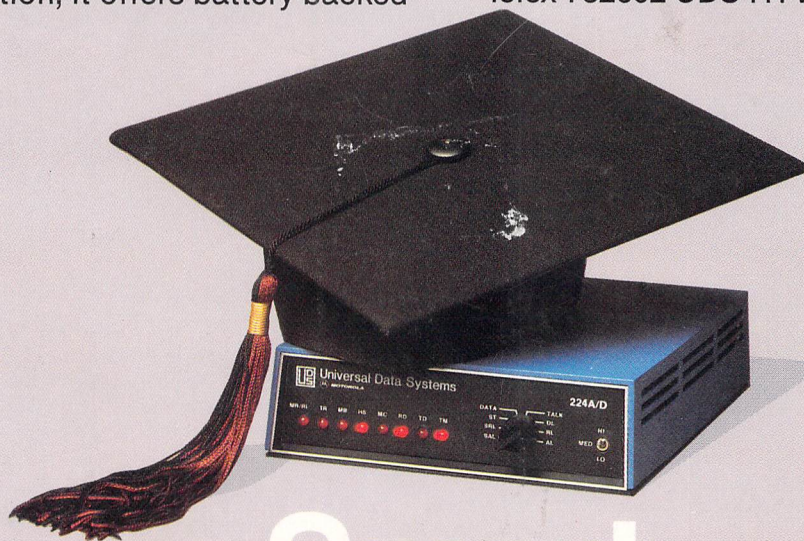
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